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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you agree with the proposal to hold a referendum on the issue of granting improved status to guest workers in the CNMI?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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The CNMI's first 11 local doctors and dentists are honored with a congressional record.

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Secure Border
Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer calls for completion of a separating fence on the Mexican border.

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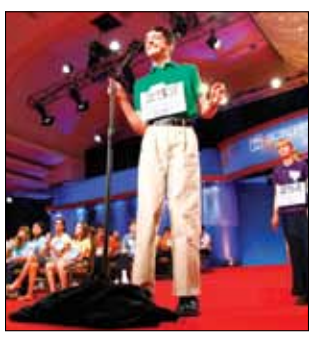

Spelling Bee
Competitors from across the U.S. and around the world face off in the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

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President Barack Obama waves prior to boarding Air Force One at Pittsburgh International Airport in Coraopolis, Pa., Wednesday, June 2, 2010. AP

Obama postpones Guam visit anew

» Fitial administration looks forward to future presidential visits to Marianas

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

President Barack Obama has postponed for the third time his visit to Guam, Indonesia and Australia set for this month, the White House confirmed yesterday.

Obama and his family were originally set to visit Guam on March 18, en route to Indonesia and Australia. But because of the pending health care reform bill at that time, the trip was later postponed to March 22 and 23. The imminent vote on the bill further postponed the trip to June.

The White House said it also informed Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho about the June trip's postponement.

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Rape of student is 4th on Saipan this year

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The sexual assault on a 15-year-old student at Laly 4 Beach in Chalan Kanoa is the fourth rape case on Saipan this year, according to the Department of Public Safety yesterday.

DPS spokesman Eric David disclosed that the Criminal Investigation Bureau has leads to the suspects in three of the four cases.

Of the three, David said, police made an arrest in one case and that was Paul H. Taitano.

Taitano allegedly broke into the house of his former common-law wife and sexually assaulted her at her apartment in Chalan Kanoa on May 26.

Taitano was arrested for burglary, sexual assault, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

David said no one has been arrested yet in the two other cases, but detectives are still conducting further investigation and have good leads.

See RAPE on Page 4

149 VOUCHERS ISSUED, MORE APPLYING

New appliance rebate program for Saipan ends

» Rota, Tinian residents to be given chance to apply

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Due to limited funding, the CNMI Energy Division has stopped accepting applications from Saipan households for a federally funded program that gives residents up to $750 in rebates to replace their appliances with energy-efficient ones.

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CONTACT INFO
- CNMI Energy Division: 664-4480/81

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Energy Division Director Thelma Inos join the first three recipients of the energy rebate program vouchers and other officials.

Wyatt is the new Zoning administrator. PAGE 3
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Local

The CNMI's first 11 doctors are honored

» Dr. Camacho, Dr. Cabrera: We're thankful for long overdue appreciation

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Dr. Calistro Camacho Cabrera, 79, and Dr. Carlos Sablan Camacho, 72, personally accepted yesterday a framed copy of a congressional record that Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan entered on May 11 to pay tribute to the CNMI's first 11 local doctors and dentists.

"This is very timely and long overdue. It's an honor," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune* at the ceremony yesterday afternoon at the Commonwealth Health Center in Garapan.

Camacho, who is also the first governor of the CNMI, was among those promising local individuals trained by the U.S. Navy right after World War II in medicine and dentistry.

He said he was a doctor from 1963 to 1976 as a result of training he received from the U.S. Navy and was later sent to Fiji and Hawaii for further training. He also has a master's degree in Public Health from the University of Hawaii.

Cabrera, for his part, said it is appropriate that this kind of tribute is given while he and at least two others are still alive, although it's too late for those who already passed away.

"To me, this is very remarkable because many times, it's only when people are already dead that they are honored and they get to know what people say about them and what they have done. At least while we're still alive, it's good to be recognized and I am thankful," he said.

Sablan, in his welcome remarks, said the CNMI needs to "start memorializing for perpetuity."

"If we don't do it ourselves, nobody else will," he told the crowd gathered in the lobby of CHC.

In his formal tribute, Sablan said the people of the CNMI "have the deepest appreciation, admiration, and respect for our pioneer doctors and dentists – to those still living today and to the memory of those that have passed on."

"May their compassion and dedication always be an example and inspire more of our young people to pursue a career in health care," said Sablan, the CNMI's first non-voting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

One of the 11 doctors who are still alive today, Dr. Helen Taro, could not make it to the ceremony that Sablan's office hosted yesterday.

Relatives of the eight other doctors and dentists accepted the framed congressional record.

These families include that of Dr. Jose Diaz Torres, the CNMI's first local doctor.

His only surviving daughter, Asuncion Torres, 76, said she is "happy" to receive a congressional record honoring her father. She herself worked at the hospital for 47 years as a purchasing personnel.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, second from right, joins the family of the CNMI's first local doctor—Dr. Jose Diaz Torres—during a presentation of a framed congressional record honoring the CNMI's 11 pioneer doctors and dentists yesterday at the Commonwealth Health Center in Garapan. Other photo shows Sablan, right, presenting a framed copy of the congressional record to Dr. Carlos Sablan Camacho, left, who is also the CNMI's first governor.

Her two surviving siblings are Pete A. Torres who is in Guam, and Francisco Torres, who is in the U.S.

One of Torres's grandsons, John Torres Flores, said Sablan's tribute is "a very noble recognition" of the CNMI's first medical professionals.

"One of the things I remember most about my grandfather is that he really served as a doctor 24/7. People walked to my grandfather's house in Chalan Kanoa all the time to be treated for many kinds of ailments, even at night, and that's the true meaning of 24/7 job. I remember he was called 'the peoples doctor'," Flores said in an interview.

Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez received the framed congressional record for his father, the late Dr. Jose Tenorio Villagomez, on behalf of his family.

"I will give this to my mother," he said.

The six other pioneer CNMI doctors and dentists honored yesterday include: Dr. Manuel Manibusan Aldan and Dr. Juan Charfauros Reyes, both dentists; and Dr. Jose Lujan Chong, Dr. Francisco Taman Palacios, and Dr. Benusto Rogolifoi Kaipat.

Sablan, on May 11 in Washington, D.C., entered into congressional record his tribute to the CNMI's first 11 local doctors and dentists.

He said Chamorro people had their own healing and medicinal traditions from ancient times, but Spanish colonizers introduced the indigenous people to Western medicine, and the Germans continued this practice upon taking control of the Northern Mariana Islands at the end of the 19th century.

He said in 1914, a young Chamorro by the name of Jose Diaz Torres began his training in medicine at a small hospital opened by the German colonial administration on Saipan. Torres or Dr. Torres as he came to be called, thus "became the islands' first local doctor."

Sablan said when Japan supplanted Germany, Dr. Torres continued his practice in a hospital built by the Japanese.

"There, too, the careers of Saipan's first Chamorro dentists, Dr. Manuel Manibusan Aldan and Dr. Juan Charfauros Reyes, began," said Sablan.

After the war, the Navy trained local individuals in medicine and dentistry. The Navy also sent Reyes for further education to the School of Dental Assistants at the Navy Hospital in Guam.

The Navy also sent for further training the following individuals for medical training first to the Naval Medical School in Guam and then to the Central Medical School in Suva, Fiji, in the early 1950s.

The other doctors trained here and off island later were Dr. Carlos S. Camacho, Dr. Manuel Quitano Sablan, and Dr. Helen Taro.

"Like their faithful colleagues before them, Dr. Sablan and Dr. Taro returned after schooling to be of service to the people of the Northern Marianas, taking care of the dental and medical needs of the island community," the delegate said.

One of the framed copies of the congressional record paying tribute to the CNMI's pioneer doctors and dentists will be posted in one of the hallways of the Commonwealth Health Center in Garapan.

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Book details history of Marianas educational system

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Local educator Roman De los Santos has published a book that traces the history of the educational system in the Marianas, from the Spanish era right up to the American period, and he hopes it will become a standard textbook for education majors in the region.

De los Santos

Published by Xlibris Corp., the 167-page book is called *A History of the Northern Marianas Educational System: Implications for Teacher Education*.

"The book examines historically the Spanish, German, Japanese, and the American involvement in our educational development, and why schools and teachers were vital to Micronesia and to the people of the Marianas…why schools developed and why teachers were important during the early period of history. …Education development in Micronesian and the Marianas were part of the greater American history," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said the history of teacher development and training during the Spanish, German, Japanese, and the American periods are not available or mostly limited and scattered, preventing people in the Marianas from getting a broad understanding of how the educational system in the region developed and evolved.

Because of the importance of these untold stories about the past's educational systems, De los Santos believes all teachers should have a copy of the book and perhaps require all students majoring in education at Northern Marianas College to read it.

"Young people concentrate on the present rather than the past. Today's students should be required to learn about teacher's development and training to respect those individuals and how institutional development known as history [came about] before their time," he said. "I would like to make this book be a requirement for all high school students and it should be made a mandatory textbook for college student of education."

De los Santos also encourages public and private libraries to offer his book to a greater number of readers on the islands.

The book was a part of De los Santos' doctoral degree requirement at the University of New Mexico.

De los Santos earned his bachelor's degree in 1971 and his master's degree in 1974 from Portland State University, majoring in Art, U.S. and European History, and Teacher Education. In the same year, he also earned his master's degree in Social Sciences in Teaching at Portland State University

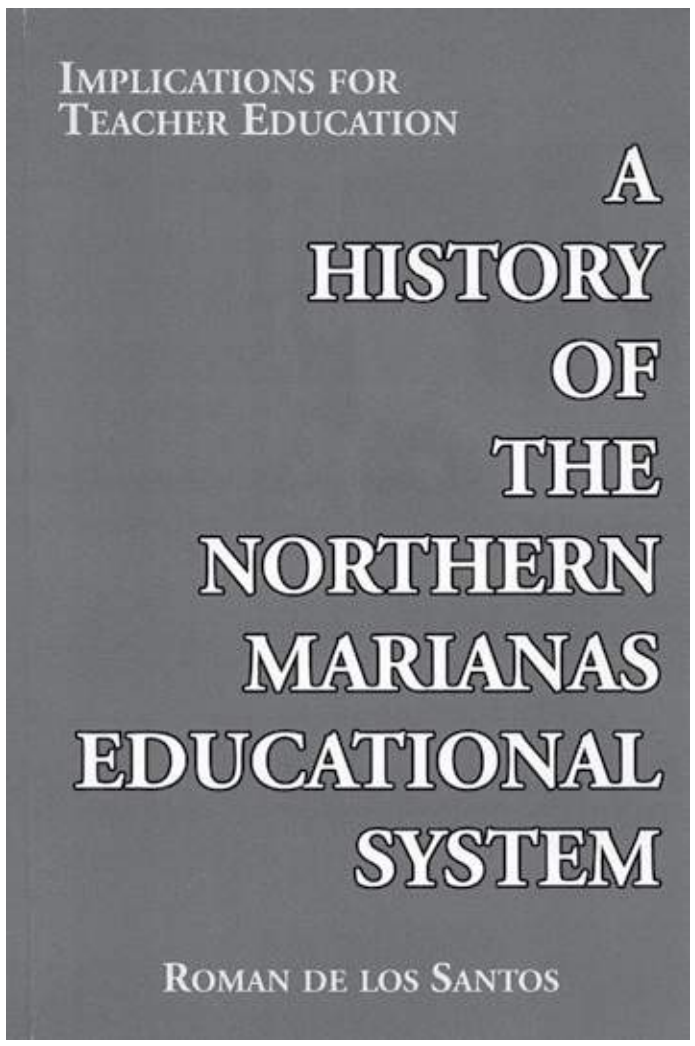
He has traveled and taught at public schools and community colleges while taking classes at the University of New Mexico.

He earned his Educational Specialist in Administration and School Supervision in 1987, and was accepted to work on his doctoral degree program in Curriculum and Instruction in Multicultural Teacher and Childhood Education. He completed his degree in 1990 and graduated in 1991.

He taught at the University of Guam for two years and left for the mainland in 1995. He then traveled to Saipan and taught a Multicultural Teacher Education graduate course at NMC while he was teaching at University of Guam.

De los Santos is originally from Guam and Saipan.

He also authored *A Navajo-English Children Pictures Dictionary*, published by the Navajo Community College, Tsaile, Arizona, where he served as dean of Instruction.



Wyatt is the new Zoning administrator

Douglas Wyatt is now the new Zoning Administrator.

The Commonwealth Zoning board has unanimously agreed to hire Wyatt at its regular monthly meeting on June 3, 2010.

Fusco

"We are glad to finally fill this very critical and hard-to-fill position," said Zoning board chair Herminia Fusco. "Mr. Wyatt's employment contract is being routed through the system now and the Zoning board is hoping that the employment contract will be completed soon since Mr. Wyatt hopes to arrive on Saipan on July 12th and start work on July 19, 2010."

The Zoning board earlier announced several important zoning issues that the Zoning Office is trying to address this year, including the updating and revision of the 2008 Saipan Zoning Law, the adult business park, the problem of dilapidated buildings, and the removal of junk cars.

"With the new Zoning administrator in place, the Zoning Office will also try to do its best to provide more public awareness and public education about zoning in the media. Also more detailed informations about rezones, conditional uses, and the activities of the Zoning Board Office will be publicized in the media on a regular basis," Fusco said. ***(PR)***

Help us Help the Red Cross
i'm lovin' it
American Red Cross
In a collaborative effort to increase awareness in the importance of helping, McDonald's Saipan is teaming up with the local chapter of the American Red Cross. Raffle tickets will be given out to businesses and individuals at no charge. Present it to any McDonald's location and 20% of your total purchase will be donated to NMI Red Cross. You will also be eligible for raffle drawing and get a chance to win fabulous prizes.
Promo Rules:
Purchases made from all Saturdays of June (June 5, 12, 19 and 26) between 8am to 2pm will be valid.
Must meet the required minimum purchase of $ 15.00 to participate in the raffle draw.
Need to be present to win.
Receipt of purchase must be attached to the raffle ticket stub.
Deadline for submission of raffle tickets will be on Saturday, June 26, 2010 at 2:00pm.
Tickets are available at both McDonald's location and NMI Red Cross office.
Grand Draw will be held on June 26, 2010, 3:00pm at Mc Donald's Middle Road.
PRIZES:
1st Prize: (1) Round Trip ticket for 1 from Saipan to anywhere in Asia
2nd Prize: (1) $500.00 Cash
3rd Prize: (1) LCD Flat Screen TV
4th Prize: (1) iPod
5th Prize: (1) Microwave Oven
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E-mail: mcdonalds@pticom.com

USCIS offers 2nd Internet-based seminar for NMI

» Webinars assist CNMI employers with new CNMI Form I-9

On June 17, 2010, the Verification Office of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is offering the second in its series of Webinars on the CNMI Form I-9, from 8am to 9:15am local CNMI time.

This live meeting takes place over the Internet. The Webinar includes a presentation about the CNMI Form I-9. This form is used only in the CNMI and is required for all new hires since Nov. 28, 2009. To register for this or future Webinars, go to the 'Sign Up for a Webinar' page at http://go.usa.gov/it1.

If you need more information or assistance, contact Verification's customer service representative Tuesday through Saturday from 4am to 1pm local time by dialing 1-888-464-4218.

To learn more about the federalization of immigration law in the CNMI, go to www.uscis.gov/cnmi. ***(PR)***

NMC Summer 2010 registration ongoing

Registration for the Northern Marianas College's Summer 2010 semester will be ongoing to July 2 for Summer Session II.

The college offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in elementary education, associate degrees in business, business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resource management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

New students are required to take an English and Math placement test before they register. The schedule of the English and Math placement tests and the Summer 2010 class schedule can be found online at www.nmcnet.edu.

The Summer 2010 semester is divided into four sessions: Regular Summer Session (nine-week courses), Extended Summer Session (12-week courses), Summer Session I (six-week courses) and Summer Session II (six-week courses starting July 6).

Those who have not applied for admission can still do so by visiting the College's Office of Admissions and Records (OAR) and picking up an application form. Application forms can also be downloaded from the NMC Web site.

Application for admissions will be accepted until the last day of Registration provided that both placement tests have been taken.

Summer 2010 important dates

■ June 4-July 2, 2010: Registration for Summer Session II, 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

■ July 6, 2010: First Day of Instruction for Summer Session II

■ July 6-July 8, 2010: Add-Drop Course(s) Days for Summer Session II

For more information regarding admissions or registration, contact OAR at 234-5498 Ext 1537 or email oar@nmcnet.edu, or log on to www.nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

NMC to host 3rd 'Cash for College' workshop

The Northern Marianas College will be hosting its 3rd "Cash for College" workshop aimed at helping students obtain financial assistance for college. The workshop is made possible by the financial support of the U.S. Department of Education's College's Access Challenge Grant Program.

Workshop attendees will receive personal assistance and guidance in completing financial aid forms for the CNMI Scholarship, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Aid, and other scholarships.

NMC Staff from the Office of Admissions and Records will also be present to assist new students with the enrollment and application process.

"We are inviting interested individuals to take advantage of our services during the NMC "Cash for College" workshop," said NMC interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera. "The purpose of this workshop is to assist students in their efforts to obtain much needed financial aid for college and to encourage students to pursue higher education."

The free workshop will be held on June 19, 2010, at the As Terlaje campus in Building A. Participants can stop by at anytime between the hours of 9am to 3pm.

Participants are highly encouraged to bring a valid identification card, tax forms, proof of residency for 2008 and 2009, a proof of continuing residency, and an official high school transcript.

For more information, contact the NMC Financial Aid Office at 234-5498 ext. 1526 or email daisym@nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

ERRATUM

In the June 3, 2010 (Wednesday) edition of the *Saipan Tribune*, some information in the page 7 article "Five college-bound seniors awarded Chamber scholarships" was incorrect. Jim Cedrick Libut plans to study civil engineering at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Libut was also the one who stated, "The youth of today are the workforce of tomorrow and I am grateful for this opportunity." Our apologies.

1 of 3 suspects in theft of spent shell casings to enter guilty plea

One of three men facing charges of breaking into a hazardous explosive removal project in Marpi and stealing expended shell casings is expected to enter a guilty plea.

Assistant attorney general Brian Gallagher and defense lawyer F. Matthew Smith, counsel for Matthew Igisaiar, filed an agreement to vacate the status conference currently set for June 5 in the case against Igisaiar and hold a change of plea hearing instead.

The parties stated that the change of plea hearing should be on June 8 at 9am as Igisaiar is due to leave for his job as a long line fisherman that will take about three months.

The prosecution has agreed not to object to the request for the change of plea hearing.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Igisaiar, James Sanchez, and Ray Anthony Ayuyu with theft, conspiracy to commit theft, and criminal trespass.

According to the charging document, the three entered the All-Hazard Management Professionals Inc. project site and stole used shell casings on July 12, 2009.

Police said the three, when arrested that day, confessed that they sold the stolen scrap metals to a recycling plant in Lower Base. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

OBAMA

From Page 1

Camacho earlier invited CNMI Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to come to Guam to meet with Obama during his visit to the island.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment, said Obama "has to manage a very tight and rigorous schedule."

"Although it would have been a pleasure to welcome President Obama to the Marianas, we must also consider that the nation must address other pressing matters accordingly. We certainly hope that our islands may soon have the opportunity to become a destination of choice for future presidential visits, Demapan said.

White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said yesterday that Obama spoke Thursday night to Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono to tell them about the Asian trip's postponement.

"President Obama expressed his deep regret that he has to postpone his trip to Asia that was scheduled for later this month. The President looked forward to rescheduling so that he can visit both countries soon," Gibbs said in a statement.

There was no announcement of the date for the rescheduled trip.

The White House did not cite a reason for the visit's delay, but it comes at a time when the Obama administration is facing one of the worst environmental disasters in U.S. history as a result of up to 798,000 gallons of oil gushing into the Gulf of Mexico daily from BP's ruptured undersea well.

"President Obama underscored his commitment to our close alliance with Australia and our deepening partnership with Indonesia. He plans to hold full bilateral meetings with Prime Minister Rudd and President Yudhoyono on the margins of the G-20 meeting in Canada," Gibbs added.

Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo, in a separate statement, said she's "disappointed" to learn that Obama has once again postponed his trip to Guam, Indonesia, and Australia.

"However, I appreciate the President's continuing commitment to ensure that all federal resources are brought forward to assist in capping and containing the oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico. This national tragedy requires his full attention to find solutions to the problems in the Gulf. I look forward to working with President Obama to find a time in the future when he can visit Guam," said Bordallo, who was the first to announce Obama's visit early this year.

The CNMI House and Senate separately adopted in February two resolutions formally inviting Obama to visit the CNMI. The White House has yet to respond to these two resolutions.

They had said it will be a "great honor" and an "extraordinary privilege" to have Obama visit the CNMI while he is in the region.

They said a presidential visit will bring to the fore issues critical to the CNMI, including the recent federalization of its immigration, the military buildup in Guam that will also impact the CNMI, and the creation of the Marianas Trench National Monument and the authorization for a visitor center in the region.

If and when Obama visits the CNMI, he will be the first sitting U.S. president to ever set foot in the CNMI.

The highest ranking U.S. official to set foot in the CNMI's capital of Saipan is former President George H.W. Bush, when he was still vice president to former President Ronald Reagan. Bush flew to Saipan on his way to a six-day visit to China in October 1985.

REBATE

From Page 1

Effective at the end of workday yesterday, the division ceased accepting applications from Saipan residents. However, Rota and Tinian applications will still be accepted and processed.

Energy Director Thelma Inos, in an interview yesterday, said the division received a "high volume of rebate applications" from Saipan residents.

Inos said ceasing the application process for Saipan will provide the Energy Division ample time to properly review and update the availability of appliance rebate vouchers allotted for Saipan.

"We are happy that people are taking advantage of the program that will help them protect the environment and save on energy bills. People are still coming in and inquiring. From the start, we've announced that this will be on a first-come, first-serve basis," Inos told *Saipan Tribune.*

Vincent S. Attao, energy auditor at the Energy Division, said at least 149 vouchers have so far been distributed on Saipan as of yesterday, amounting to some $36,000.

Of this total amount, the vouchers issued for energy-efficient refrigerators amounted to $17,000; for washers, $11,100; and for air conditioning units, $7,500.

On top of this, there is a large volume of applications received, especially on Thursday and yesterday.

Anyone—regardless of income bracket—is eligible to apply for the program, called State Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program and funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The rebate for a refrigerator is up to $300. The rebate is also up to $300 for a clothes washer. For room air-conditioning unit, the rebate is up to $150. If a household becomes eligible to receive rebates for these three appliances, they could get as much as $750.

The Energy Division, however, said individuals who are already recipients of the Weatherization Assistance Program will not qualify for the refrigerator and room air-conditioner rebates if they have already availed of such under the WAP.

On May 28, the division presented the first vouchers to three Saipan residents: Firefighter Sylvan O. Laniyo of Dandan, Aldebert C. Deleon Guerrero of Kannat Tabla, and Mirabel M. Castro of Dandan.

The retailers that are participating in the energy rebate program include YCO (Garapan), Pacific Home Appliances (Garapan), ACE Hardware Stores (Gualo Rai Branch, San Vicente Branch, Susupe Branch, and Rota Branch), and Taro Sue Store (Garapan).

Tinian and Rota

Inos and Attao said Energy Division representatives will be going to Tinian and Rota next week to assist applicants from these islands with their energy rebate applications and to answer questions they may have about the program.

The applications will be received in the conference room of the Tinian Mayor's Office and the Rota Mayor's Office, the division officials said.

On Tinian, Energy Division representatives will be accepting energy rebate applications on Monday and Tuesday, June 7 and 8.

Tinian applications will be received from 10am to 4:30pm. On Tuesday, it will be from 7:30am to 11:30am, and from 12:30pm to 3:30pm.

On Rota, residents should submit their applications on Wednesday, June 9, from 7:30am to 11:30am, and from 12:30pm to 3:30pm.

For more information, call the CNMI Energy Division office at 664-4480 or 81.

RAPE

From Page 1

As for the fourth case—the Chalan Kanoa incident—David said it is still under investigation as detectives have no leads yet on the two suspects.

Investigators are still looking for possible witnesses in the Chalan Kanoa incident, which happened on May 27.

The girl was reportedly walking near the Chalan Kanoa Beach Club at 4:30pm on her way home from a friend's house when she was hit from behind on the head and raped while unconscious.

Two males, aboard a white pickup truck, were tagged as suspects.

The NMI Crime Stoppers Program is offering up to $1,000 cash reward to anyone who can provide information leading to an arrest in the Chalan Kanoa case.

More scientists to deploy to Northern Islands for study

More scientists from Hawaii will fly to the Northern Islands this Sunday to continue research on the islands' flora and fauna.

The Office of Northern Islands Mayor Tobias Aldan confirmed yesterday that an estimated 25 experts from Hawaii will be traveling to the islands up north with representatives of local agencies such as the Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

The 25 scientists will include the ones earlier airlifted from the islands due to the eruption of an underwater volcano south of Sarigan early this week.

Aldan approved yesterday the re-deployment of eight of his men to assist and guide the scientists. The mayor's office disclosed that manifests and charters for the Sunday trip is expected 4pm yesterday.

Five scientists will be deployed to each of the islands to expedite the research process.

Saipan Tribune learned that these experts would stay on the islands until the study is completed around August this year.

Aldan decided to go ahead with the redeployment and continuation of the study after consulting with the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife and DLNR.

The study on endangered species is being funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife to DLNR. A portion of the grant was also provided to the Northern Islands mayor for logistics and other costs.

The Mayor's Office was provided an initial of $24,000 for the related works for the research and it is expecting $70,000 more for the completion of the project. ***(Moneth Deposa)***

CELEBRITY VISITOR CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo met Thursday last week with Oscar-nominated actor Don Cheadle and the Pew Environment Group at her office in the Cannon House Office Building. Cheadle was on Capitol Hill to talk to Bordallo about his work in international conservation work and to advocate a stronger U.S. involvement in global natural resource and biodiversity conservation. Cheadle was nominated for an Oscar for his portrayal of Paul Rusesabagina in the 2004 movie *Hotel Rwanda*. He has also starred in the films *Iron Man 2, Ocean's Thirteen, Crash*, and many others.

PHI Pharmacy welcomes 2 new interns from off-island

By DENCIO MANGLONA
STUDENT INTERN

Saipan's medical community welcomed earlier this month two newcomers who are in the final stages of their pharmaceutical education.

Benjamin Curry and Steven Evans, students at the University of Hawaii Hilo School of Pharmacology, arrived on Saipan last month and began working at the PHI Pharmacy at the Commonwealth Health Center.

The two newest members of the island medical community, both 23, are undergoing the first of six 6-week rotations. "Rotations" are internship-style opportunities that allow students to get out of the classroom and gain experience in various aspects of pharmacy practice. This includes provision of products, ambulatory care, and pharmacy management.

They are planning a variety of outreach programs that will make the pharmacist "more personal and less of the person who hands out medicine behind a counter. We are health care professionals and we want to reach out to the community," according to Evans.

They already had a health presentation at Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, giving out information on managing diabetes, blood pressure, and gout.

"We went to GTC and conducted blood pressure and sugar testing.We wanted to inform the kids on how lifestyle and diet changes are significant things," said Curry. They plan to conduct similar presentations at Hopwood Jr. High School and other locations.

Curry and Evans have visited Saipan's caves, Forbidden Island, and the grotto and are enjoying their stay, telling the *Saipan Tribune* that "we have two 'elective rotations' and we wanted to come here…beautiful island, beautiful people, beautiful places; everyone is so nice here."

According to Evans, they are the first of their inaugural graduating class to come to the islands and the CNMI can expect more potential pharmacists to take their place in the months to come.

The two will return to Hawaii later this month for their last year of schooling. Curry intends to return to Hilo to continue his rotations and Evans to Maui at the Maui Memorial Hospital.

Thief gets 4-month prison term

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona has imposed a four-month prison term on a man who broke into a retired doctor's house and stole money, items, and a car.

Manglona sentenced Arthur Thomas Ramangmau Rauepi to five years imprisonment, all suspended except for four months for theft, with credit for the four months he had already spent in jail.

This means the 22-year-old Rauepi is now out of jail.

Manglona, however, placed Rauepi on probation for five years and required him to pay a $100 in restitution to Dr. Calistro Cabrera, a $50 fine, $100 court assessment fee, and $100 annual probation fee.

Rauepi was also ordered to perform 150 hours of community service and write a letter of apology to Dr. Cabrera.

The sentence was the result of a plea bargain Rauepi reached with the government. He was represented by assistant public defender Matthew Holley.

Rauepi pleaded guilty to felony theft. In exchange for pleading guilty, the government moved to dismiss the remaining charges. The court granted the motion.

Rauepi was arrested shortly after burglarizing Cabrera's house in Susupe and stealing $23 cash, house and car keys, and a car on May 31, 2009.

According to police, Cabrera reported to the Department of Public Safety at 2:19am that same day that his house had been burglarized and that his car was stolen.

Cabrera said he was awakened by a loud noise and discovered the burglary.

At 2:40am that same day, a police officer spotted Cabrera's car in Kagman III. Rauepi was then arrested.

Rauepi admitted to police that he managed to break into the house using a knife to pick the door's lock.

Li passes NCLEX on first try

A 33-year-old mother of three recently passed the National Council Licensure Examination for nurses on her first try.

Li Li, a Marianas Baptist Academy missionary who earned her licensed practical nurse stripes at the Emmanuel College last year, got the good news on May 17 that she had passed the exam.

Li

Li finished the 11-month LPN course at Emmanuel College in August 2009 and immediately prepared for the test.

Li, a Chinese national, extended her appreciation to her family and friends for their full support throughout her studies. She also credited the help she got from her former mentors at the college for helping her achieve her educational goal.

Li joins other students from Emmanuel College who have already passed the national licensure exam for nurses. These include Sarah Jane Santos, Jian Teng, Xiao Hua Yuan, Cheng Huan, and Leonora Angello.

Li said she plans to seek employment at the Commonwealth Health Center or other private clinics on the island.

Li said she dreams of becoming a registered nurse someday.

Emmanuel College's Vocational Nursing program is approved and accredited by the CNMI Board of Nursing for a total of 1,564 hours of theory and clinical training for entry-level employment in hospitals and other healthcare settings.

Emmanuel College is expected to open a new season for the next batch of students this summer. ***(Moneth Deposa)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CPA-RFP-004-10

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting SEALED PROPOSALS for **PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) BRAND NEW DESKTOP COMPUTER, ONE (1) 55" HDTV MONITOR AND ONE (1) PORTABLE COMPUTER CART** to the following airports:

- Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI
- Amata Kabua International Airport, Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands
- Chuuk International Airport, Chuuk, FSM
- Kosrae International Airport, Kosrae. FSM
- Pohnpei International Airport, Pohnpei, FSM
- Yap International Airport, Yap, FSM
- Babelthuap Koror International Airport, Republic of Palau

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: ***"Proposal for the Procurement and Delivery of One (1) Desktop Computer, One (1) 55" HDTV Monitor and One (1) Portable Computer Cart".*** The proposal must be submitted on or before **4:30 p.m., Monday, JUNE 14, 2010,** to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

The procurement consists of the procurement and delivery of the above-subject equipment to each respective island's Airport Authority, all in accordance with the specifications. The specifications for the computers, the monitors and the carts can be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor of the arrival building at the Saipan International Airport. The specifications for the computer are mandated by the Federal Aviation Adminsitration so there will be absolutely no substitution of components for desktop computer system.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes and shipping and handling costs that will be charged to the company awarded the procurement, including excise tax. CPA will not consider unjustifiable cost escalations due to unforeseen circumstances once contract is executed.

The contract period for delivery of all equipment to each respective island shall be **THIRTY (30) CALENDAR DAYS** from issuance of purchase order.

Inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals may be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.admin@pticom.com no later than June 7, 2010.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 3.6. CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Acting Executive Director

June 1, 2010
Date

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Availability for the Mariana Islands Range Complex Final Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS)

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations [40 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1500-1508]) and in accordance with Executive Order 12114, the U.S. Navy, on behalf of the Department of Defense Representative Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia and Republic of Palau (DoD Rep), has prepared a final EIS/OEIS that evaluates the potential environmental effects of ongoing and proposed activities within the Navy's existing Mariana Islands Range Complex. It contains analyses of the potential impacts associated with ongoing and proposed military training, research and development, and testing activities, as well as proposed enhancements to the capabilities of the range complex.

The final EIS/OEIS includes analyses of the potential environmental effects on these resource areas: geology, soils and bathymetry, air quality, hazardous materials and wastes, water quality, airborne noise, marine communities, fish and essential fish habitat, sea turtles, marine mammals, sea birds and shore birds, terrestrial species and habitats, land use, transportation, demographics, regional economy, recreation, cultural resources, environmental justice and protection of children, and public health and safety.

In compliance with the CEQ regulations, public hearings were held in association with the draft EIS/OEIS. Public hearings are not required for the final EIS/OEIS. The final EIS/OEIS includes written and oral comments received during the public review of the draft EIS/OEIS and responses to those comments. The DoD Rep will make his decision, which will be recorded in the Record of Decision after the 30-day waiting period.

The final EIS/OEIS has been made available to individuals, agencies and organizations that requested a copy of the final document or provided comments on the draft EIS/OEIS. An electronic copy of the final EIS/OEIS is available for public viewing at **www.MarianasRangeComplexEIS.com.** It is also available for review at the following information repositories:

- ***Guam*** – University of Guam, Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Library, Government Documents Room, 671-735-2321 and Nieves M. Flores Memorial Library, 671-475-4753
- ***Saipan*** – Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, 670-235-7322
- ***Tinian*** – Northern Marianas College, Public Library, 670-433-0504
- ***Rota*** – Rota Public Library, 670-532-9443

Written comments on the final EIS/OEIS must be postmarked or received by **July 6, 2010**. Comments should be mailed to Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Pacific; Attn: MIRC EIS/OEIS Project Manager; 258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100; Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-3134. Comments can also be submitted via fax at 808-474-5419 and e-mail at marianas.tap.eis@navy.mil.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

US energy appetite is the point, not Obama's emotion

(c) 2010, The Charlotte Observer (Charlotte, N.C.)

Beltway pundits are a-dither about whether President Barack Obama has done a good enough job of on-camera emoting about the oil spill.

For example, New York Times columnist Maureen Dowd writes about "the president's strange inability to convey passion over a historical environmental disaster." Politico.com offered this headline: "Does the president need to yell and scream to stop the Gulf oil spill?" Who cares whether Obama was a good enough performer on TV? We should worry instead about whether he'll push this nation to go on a major energy diet. Because if we don't, we are likely to ruin our beaches from our thirst for oil and level the Appalachians in our hunger for coal.

Should this administration have been tougher and required credible environmental plans for this kind of disaster? Without question. The same is true for previous administrations, Democrat and Republican alike. Further, it's painful to watch the hypocrisy of the get-regulators-off-our-backs types now blustering that Obama should have stepped in earlier and done something different about the spill. (Plug it with Grover Norquist, perhaps?)

Here's reality: We Americans lead the world's list of energy hogs. We're addicted to oil, foreign and domestic. We can't ban offshore drilling unless we reduce our oil appetites. To date the only thing that's ever succeeded in that was a spell of $4-a-gallon gas in 2008.

The Gulf spill will ruin a valuable part of our national ecosystem and a chunk of our economy. But eventually, that ecosystem will recover. You can't say that about the Appalachian mountaintops and valleys that coal companies are destroying forever—so that we can waste electricity.

This week Obama promised to push for climate change legislation to ease the nation from its oil and coal addiction. Good. But if you're as angry about the spill as you ought to be, then stop fretting about the president's emotions. Buy less gas. Drive less. Conserve electricity. Until Americans begin a national 12-step program for our fossil fuel habit, we're trapped—regardless of whether Obama starts feeling our pain on camera.

America in decline? Not in today's world

By MAX BOOT
Los Angeles Times

Max Boot is a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and the author of War Made New: Technology, Warfare, and the Course of History, 1500 to Today. *He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

Much nonsense has been written in recent years about the prospects of American decline and the inevitable rise of China. But it was not a declining power that I saw in recent weeks as I jetted from the Middle East to the Far East through two of America's pivotal geographic commands—Central Command and Pacific Command.

The very fact that the entire world is divided into American military commands is significant. There is no French, Indian or Brazilian equivalent—not yet even a Chinese counterpart. It is simply assumed without much comment that American soldiers will be central players in the affairs of the entire world. It is also taken for granted that a vast network of U.S. bases will stretch from Germany to Japan—more than 700 in all, depending on how you count. They constitute a virtual American empire of Wal-Mart-style PXs, fast-food restaurants, golf courses and gyms.

There is an especially large American presence in the Middle East, one of the world's most crisis-prone regions. For all the anti-Americanism in the Arab world, almost all the states bordering what they call the Arabian Gulf support substantial American bases. These governments are worried about the looming Iranian threat and know that only the United States can offer them protection. They are happy to deal with China, but it would never occur to a single sultan or sheik that the People's Liberation Army will protect them from Iranian intimidation.

In the Far East, a similar dynamic prevails. All of China's neighbors happily trade with it, but all are wary of the Middle Kingdom's pretensions to regional hegemony. Even Vietnam, a country that handed America its worst military defeat ever, is eager to establish close ties with Washington as a counter to Beijing.

What of America's two most important allies in Northeast Asia—South Korea and Japan? Not long ago, relations with Seoul were frosty because it was pursuing a "sunshine policy" of outreach to North Korea that the George W. Bush administration (rightly) viewed as one of the world's most dangerous rogue states. More recently, relations with Japan became strained after the election of the Liberal Democratic Party in 2009 on a platform of cozying up to China, rethinking the 50-year-old alliance between the U.S. and Japan, and moving U.S. bases out of Okinawa. Now Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama has had to undertake an embarrassing U-turn by agreeing to an earlier plan that would move a U.S. Marine Corps air base from one part of Okinawa to another, but keep it on the island.

In justifying his reversal, Hatoyama said "we cannot afford to reduce the U.S. military deterrence" because of "political uncertainties remaining in East Asia." There is no shortage of such uncertainties with the Chinese navy becoming increasingly assertive in moving into Japanese waters and with North Korea, which has missiles that can easily hit Japan, sinking a South Korean naval ship.

The latter incident naturally has focused attention in Seoul and served to accelerate the reaffirmation of close American-Korean ties that had already begun with the election of the more conservative President Lee Myung-bak in 2008. The anti-Americanism that had been prevalent in South Korea only a few years ago has all but disappeared, and it is not only (or even mainly) because of President Barack Obama's vaunted charm. It is largely because South Korea has tried detente and found that it did nothing to moderate the aggressive behavior of the North Korean regime.

China is South Korea's largest trade partner by far, but Beijing shows scant interest in reining in Kim Jong Il. Chinese leaders fear that North Korea will collapse, leading to a horde of refugees moving north and, eventually, the creation an American-allied regime on the Yalu River. Rather than risk this strategic calamity, China continues to prop up the crazy North Korean communists—to the growing consternation of South Koreans, who can never forget that Seoul, a city of 15 million people, is within range of what the top U.S. commander in South Korea describes as the world's largest concentration of artillery.

South Korea knows only the U.S. offers the deterrence needed to keep a nuclear-armed North Korea in check. That is why the South Koreans, who have one of the world's largest militaries (655,000 activity-duty personnel), are eager to host 28,000 U.S. troops in perpetuity and even to hand over their military forces in wartime to the command of an American four-star general. Under an agreement negotiated during the Bush administration, operational control is due to revert to the South Koreans in 2012, but senior members of the government and military told us they want to push that date back by a number of years.

South Korea's eagerness to continue subordinating its armed forces to American control is the ultimate vote of confidence in American leadership. What other country would the South Koreans possibly entrust with the very core of their national existence? Not China, that's for sure.

And yet South Korea is not so unusual in this regard. The Persian Gulf emirates also entrust their continued existence to America's benign power. The Kurds, whom we visited in Irbil, are eager to host a U.S. base, because they know that all of the gains they have made since 1991 have been made possible by our protection. Even Arab Iraqi politicians, who traffic in nationalist slogans while running for office, are quietly talking about renegotiating the accord that would bring the U.S. troop presence in Iraq to zero by the end of

See AMERICA on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Conservatives should favor free immigration

By ALEJANDRO REUSS
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Conservatives who claim to defend individual liberty should favor free immigration.

Restrictions on immigration are big government intrusions on the rights of people to move, live and work where they please.

If conservatives really believe in small government, they should not favor border walls or patrols, workplace raids or deportations. In fact, they should call for the elimination of all restrictions on immigration.

Conservatism in the United States is really an amalgam of two different points of view.

Economic conservatives have used free market rhetoric mainly to justify pro-business policies, attacking organized labor, opposing social-welfare programs and undermining government regulation of business. Social conservatives, meanwhile, yearn for an imagined past of "traditional values" and ethnic and cultural homogeneity.

The two groups, however, are not completely distinct, and both make heavy use of the rhetoric of individual liberty.

Overall, the ideology of free markets has been a terrible guide to economic policy over the last thirty years. It has left us with a tattered social safety net, a gravely weakened labor movement and the reckless deregulation of industry and finance that helped detonate the Great Recession. Such policies have also facilitated income and wealth inequality unseen since the 1920s.

On immigration, however, it would be better if the free-market conservatives were truer to their professed principles. Free-market conservatives denounce restrictions on international trade as protectionism. They argue against restrictions on international investment. Why should the international movement of people be any different? Restrictions on living or working where one wants are among the greatest government intrusions against individual liberty.

Even cultural conservatives who pine for an early 19th-century style minimalist federal government should consider the traditions of that time did not include restrictions on immigration.

"Before 1882, immigration to the United States was barely regulated at all," notes Claire Lui of American Heritage magazine. "The concept of illegal immigration did not yet exist. Almost anyone who wanted to move to America was free to do so."

In U.S. politics today, nobody would tolerate border patrols demanding proof an individual from, say, Oregon had the right to cross into California. Were anyone to suggest such a thing, conservatives would surely raise hell about government "thugs" robbing us of our freedoms. Somehow, though, there is no hue and cry from conservatives when it comes to restrictions on people crossing from Mexico into California.

Instead, what we hear from conservatives are calls for more walls, barbed wire, surveillance cameras and armed troops—all to keep people from moving and living where they please.

So why don't conservatives favor free immigration? Perhaps they do not really mind government power so much, as long as it is pointed at someone else.

Alejandro Reuss is an economist and historian and a frequent contributor to Dollars & Sense magazine (dollarsandsense.org). He can be reached at pmproj@progressive.org.

How an Israeli ally was lost

Is Israel trying to help Hamas? Is Jerusalem trying to undermine its strategic position in the Middle East?

One can't help asking such questions after Israel's botched attack on a civilian aid flotilla bound for Gaza, which killed several Turkish citizens. Who but Hamas could benefit from an Israeli military raid on an international convoy that was clearly not running guns?

The most troubling question: Did Israeli officials never consider the consequences of attacking a Turkish vessel with Turkish nationals aboard? Yes, some pro-Palestinian Turkish militants were present. But was this strike worth deep-sixing Israel's already strained relationship with Turkey — historically its closest ally in the Muslim world?

Turkey recognized Israel in 1949 and still buys weapons from the Jewish state. The Turkish armed forces train with their Israeli counterparts (although Ankara just canceled upcoming exercises). Hundreds of thousands of Israeli tourists visit Turkey every year.

Some argue that Turkey's relations with Israel have been sliding downhill since the 2003 ascendancy of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, whose Justice and Development Party has Islamist roots. Aware that its chances for admission to the European Union are minimal, Turkey is seeking a much larger role in the Mideast, which includes its (somewhat naive) efforts to mediate between Iran and the West and bring Hamas to peace talks.

However, Israel's relations with Turkey didn't shrivel with Erdogan's rise; he visited Israel in 2005, and President Shimon Peres was invited to speak to Turkey's Grand National Assembly in November 2007 — the first time an Israeli leader addressed a Muslim parliament.

The relationship really began to deteriorate after Israel launched a military operation in Gaza in December 2008. The Turkish leader, an emotional man, saw this attack as a personal betrayal.

The reason: Erdogan had met with Israel's then-prime minister, Ehud Olmert, in Ankara only three days before the Gaza operation to discuss Turkey's very active mediation between Israel and Syria. But Olmert never alerted Erdogan to the imminent Israeli invasion of Gaza, which caused the Turkish leader enormous political embarrassment at home. The Israeli strike also froze Turkey's mediation efforts with Syria.

In meetings I attended at the Davos World Economic Forum in January 2009, Erdogan also claimed that before the Gaza strike, Turkey had been making headway in negotiations to free Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, a prisoner of Hamas.

The Turkish leader clearly viewed the Gaza attack as a repudiation of his mediation efforts. "I saw this as a lack of respect for us," he told journalists. This personal pique came through in a very public, onstage spat between Erdogan and Peres at Davos.

The Turkish premier was also furious that, due to Israel's refusal to allow the entry of certain kinds of aid, including building materials, into Gaza, Turkey could not help rebuild the Gaza infrastructure destroyed in the 2008 strike. In an interview in New York in September 2009, Erdogan told me angrily: "This construction is still not allowed (by Israel). Turkey is not allowed to build schools, houses, hospitals. The Israelis allow food and medicine to pass, but not the rest."

Erdogan also complained that, while the world rushed to help Georgia rebuild after the 2008 Russian invasion, there was no similar humanitarian push to rebuild Gaza after Israel's military attack.

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer*. Readers may write to her at:* Philadelphia Inquirer*, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by e-mail at trubin@phillynews.com.*

So it should have come as no surprise that Turkey refused Israel's request that it try to halt the private aid flotilla to Gaza. Over the past year, Erdogan had repeatedly lashed out at Israel in public, and Israeli officials returned the favor. Lost in the emotional repartee was the danger of letting a strategic relationship go to hell.

This destructive cycle can only lead to grief. Turkey's parliament has asked Erdogan to review ties with Israel; Turkey might even send armed escorts with another aid flotilla.

It's time for cooler heads, including President Barack Obama, to salvage what remains of the relationship between Jerusalem and Ankara. Turkey is still a key NATO ally, and its importance in the region is growing. Erdogan should not be left by default to the embraces of Hamas and Iran.

For starters, Obama should urge Israel to apologize for the Turkish casualties and drop an aid blockade around Gaza that only strengthens Hamas. Yes, guns must be blocked, but there's surely a way to let Turkish cement into Gaza while ensuring it's used to rebuild hospitals, not bunkers. Otherwise, Turkey and Israel could yet come to blows.

BP oil spill again severely affects people of color

The Obama administration's decision to open a case against BP for possible criminal violations is a good but tardy step.

The overall lesson of the BP oil spill, however, is that if we let corporations run their operations without proper regulation, we're inviting disaster.

BP appears grossly negligent in the lead up to the explosion on the oil rig; it seems terribly incompetent in the cleanup. Plus, the Obama administration and the Bush administration before it did not exercise the oversight necessary to prevent this spill.

As a result, we watch the environment and the livelihoods of whole communities go down the drain.

The shenanigans have continued. Days after the oil spill began, BP offered settlement agreements to coastal residents in exchange for giving up their right to sue the company. There was no legal assistance or language translation for the large Vietnamese population on the Gulf of Mexico or for any other community. But what BP did offer was work cleaning up the company's mess for low pay.

In disasters such as this, communities of color are historically hardest hit by lack of public accountability (see Hurricane Katrina). This toxic mix of government and corporate shared responsibility—the whole laissez faire approach—has played out to the detriment of the average Joe before. And it's proven to be especially detrimental to James, Juan and Jin.

The business model of government has gone bust. Not just in offshore oil drilling, but across the board.

Back in the 1990s, public school reformers were constantly confronted with the slogan, "We should run our schools like we run our businesses." Entrepreneur Chris Whittle boasted that his Edison schools could both turn a profit and academically outperform public schools. Justifiably frustrated by public schools, black and Latino families gave them a chance. By 2003 the venture was in the red, the academics flatlined, and Whittle was given a bailout from then-Florida Gov. Jeb Bush.

After the Clinton administration's broad deregulation of the financial services industry, profitable subprime loans encouraged bankers to take on larger risks. The first targets of predatory lenders were people of color, who were given high-rate loans even when they could qualify for prime loans. Then, everybody began to suffer. As borrowers began to default en masse and foreclosure rates rose, the on-paper assets turned into real-dollar liabilities. Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama wagged their fingers and handed out bailouts—to the bankers.

As in the oil spill, education and banking, we need proper oversight, and we need to engage the poor and communities of color, who suffer disproportionately. They need to be involved in crafting solutions to these problems.

If the BP disaster tells us anything, it is that government and corporations can't be left alone with the public's business.

By TAMMY JOHNSON
Progressive Media Project

Tammy Johnson is director of strategic partnerships at the Applied Research Center. She also writes and blogs at ColorLines and RaceWire. She wrote this for Progressive Media Project, a source of liberal commentary on domestic and international issues; it is affiliated with The Progressive *magazine. Readers may write to the author at: Progressive Media Project, 409 East Main Street, Madison, Wis. 53703; e-mail: pmproj@progressive.org; Web site: www.progressive.org.*

AMERICA

From Page 6

2011. They know what Kosovars, Kuwaitis and countless others have learned over many decades: American power is the world's best guarantor of freedom and prosperity.

This isn't to deny the prevalence of anti-Americanism even in the Age of Obama. Nor is it to wish away the real threats to American power—from external challenges (Iran, China, Islamist terrorists) to, more worrying, internal weaknesses (rising debt levels, decreasing military spending as a percentage of the federal budget, a shrinking Navy). But if my cross-global jaunt taught me anything, it is that those countries that dismiss the prospects for continuing American leadership do so at their peril. The U.S. still possesses unprecedented power projection capabilities, and just as important, it is armed with the goodwill of countless countries that know the U.S. offers protection from local bullies. They may resent us, but they fear their neighbors, and that's the ultimate buttress of our status as the world's superpower.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°

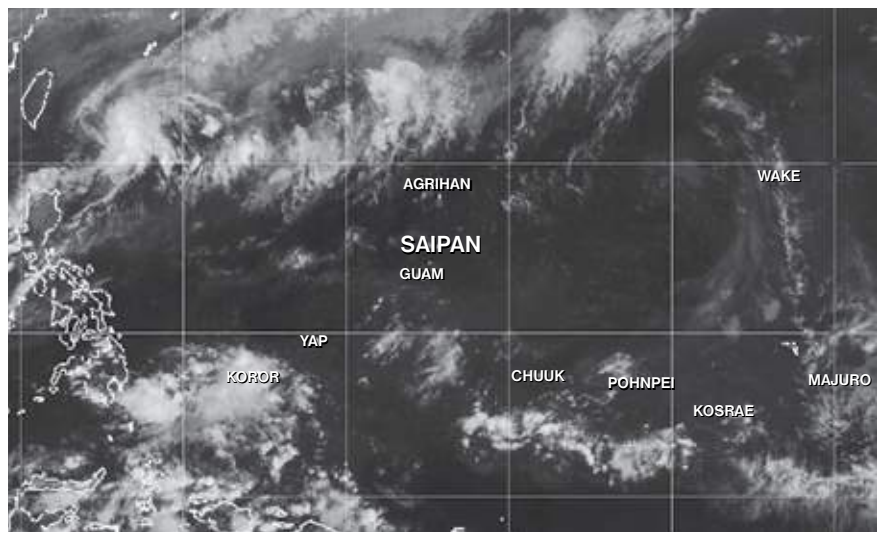
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲87	▼79
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼79
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼75
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼76
Kosrae	Rain	▲87	▼79
Majuro	Rain	▲86	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲61	▼57
Beijing	Sunny	▲89	▼67
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲83	▼76
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼74
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲78	▼61
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼64
Manila	Thundershowers	▲90	▼83
Melbourne	Showers	▲60	▼49
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89	▼79
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼70
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼62
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼61
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼64
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲79	▼61
Salem	Showers	▲65	▼47
San Francisco	Showers	▲63	▼57
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼63
Tokyo	Showers	▲74	▼63
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲91	▼74

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A stationary front extends southwestward from 25N144E to beyond 22N130E. Converging winds associated with the front are causing scattered showers and cloudiness northwest of a line from 17N130E to 25N155E. A surface trough just west of Koror extends southeastward from 9N133E to 4N136E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across Palau are in an area from 9N132E to 6N139E to EQ135E to 3N130E back to 9N132E. Another surface trough that extends southwestward from near Guam at 14N135E to 6N145E is triggering scattered showers southeast of Guam within 75 miles of a line from 10N147E to 7N147E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers near Pohnpei within 50 miles of a line from 7N156E to 7N158E and well south of Pohnpei within 75 miles of a line from 2N157E to 3N160E. Trade-wind convergence is also producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across the Marshall Islands within 150 miles of a line from 7N170E to 4N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:50 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
8:29 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
1:16 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.3 Feet
7:35 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46 AM	6:45 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:45 PM
Monday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Tuesday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Wednesday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:10 AM	12:24 PM
Sunday	12:44 AM	1:10 PM
Monday	1:20 AM	1:58 PM
Tuesday	1:57 AM	2:48 PM
Wednesday	2:38 AM	3:42 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 27, 2010

DEPARTURES

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	5:55am	8:35am	Daily
DL297	3:35pm	6:15pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:10am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/703	2:20am	11:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/703	2:50am	11:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	12:10am+1	1, 5 via PUS
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05am	9:30pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ706/607	3:35am	2:20am+1	4, 7 via PUS
C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services:
Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up:
Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church
Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa
(east of Town Center and Beach Road,
Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm
Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship
Wednesday
7pm worship
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

JUNE 5, 2000

NMC Board encourages academic freedom
The Northern Marianas College Board of Regents has reinforced the promotion of a free and open learning institution through a board policy pushing for full academic freedom and responsibility among students and teachers at CNMI's lone college. BOR policy 3004 or the NMC Academic Freedom and Responsibility calls for students and teachers to explore and exhaust all media by which students and teachers could further stir learning at the college. This policy guarantees the student body as well as the faculty their inviolable right to education in any reasonable way it is expressed.

MVA has control over activities at tourist sites
Due to a recent Superior Court ruling questioning lack of power by the Marianas Visitors Authority to regulate commercial activities on or near tourist sites, the House of Representatives put in black and white such function under a bill passed last Friday. HB 12-173, offered by House Floor Leader Oscar M. Babauta, will correct oversight that lawmakers committed when they passed the law reorganizing the defunct Marianas Visitors Bureau to MVA. The tourism agency is still the proper government office to regulate commercial activities at tourist sites, like jetski operators and merchandise vendors, according to the bill.

JUNE 5, 2001

Investigation yields zero asbestos exposure
ReporterPreliminary investigation conducted by the Department of Public Health disclosed that reported asbestos exposure at the Division of Land Registration and Survey office yielded negative results. In a press briefing held yesterday at DPH, health officials said based on the samples taken at the DLRS building on Capitol Hill and laboratory results revealed that none of the complained illnesses were due to asbestos exposure. Dr. Artin Mahmoudi and Richard Brostrom said the respiratory tract infection and other related ailments aired by employees are due to dust-like particles emitted by worn out air-conditioning duct system and not fibers composing magnesium silicates.

Mitchell appeals to 9th Circuit
Attorney Theodore R. Mitchell filed an amended notice of appeal in connection with with the Ninth Circuit Court of Appels on his suspension from law practice before the US District Court. The court order which was entered last May 4, 2001 barred Mitchell from practicing law for a period of six months, commencing from June 4 until December 4, 2001.

In addition, a May 24, 2001 order also followed, directing the embattled lawyer to pay attorney's costs and fees incurred by prosecuting counsel Richard W. Pierce in his investigation and prosecution of the case. The appellant is representing himself in the case with aid from co-counsel Jeanne H. Rayphand.

JUNE 5, 2002

Babauta complies with wage law
Gov. Juan N. Babauta has finally submitted to the House of Representatives the revised certification for five gubernatorial appointees whose salaries are above the statutory ceilings. The new certification, dated May 31, contains the language required under 1 CMC Section 8250(c), which says that, after diligent efforts, the administration has failed to find qualified people who are willing to fill in the positions at the default salary limit, which is $50,000 per annum. This comes 44 days after the lower chamber first informed Babauta that it would not sanction the beyond-the-cap salaries of some gubernatorial appointees due to defective certifications that failed to meet the elements required under the law.

DOLI tries to improve image
Attempting to change the perception of inefficiency under a new leadership, the Department Labor and Immigration would soon implement continuous services in the processing of applications, even during lunch hour. "[The division of] labor is implementing directives from the Governor regarding lunch hour, and that [it has] already assigned some of [its] staff to remain during lunch hour to service people who can only come during lunch hour," said DOLI Secretary Joaquin A. Tenorio. "If we're going to do it, it's better to do it all at one time—labor, immigration and employment [services divisions]," Tenorio added. The secretary said, however, that no official announcement to the public has been made yet, even for that of labor-related applications, since the department is in the process of finalizing the continuous services plan.

Business

Jobs data likely to show burst of temporary hiring

WASHINGTON (AP)—The nation's employers likely unleashed a wave of hiring last month, but it probably won't be repeated.

Most of the jobs expected to have been generated in May were for census workers hired on a temporary basis by the federal government. Such hiring is expected to have peaked in May and then begin tailing off in June.

By contrast, hiring by private employers—the backbone of the economy—may have slowed down a bit in May.

All told, the Labor Department's new employment snapshot released Friday morning is likely to be seen as further evidence that the job market is healing. Yet it's still years away from normal health and from recouping the millions of jobs wiped out by the recent recession.

Employers eliminated 7.8 million jobs from the start of the recession in December 2007 through April. To fill that hole and keep up with a growing work force, the economy would need to create a net 14.3 million jobs, said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics. He doesn't see that happening until early 2015.

"The gap is likely to close only gradually," said Dennis Lockhart, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta.

The United States probably added a net total of 513,000 jobs last month, economists predict. That would be an improvement from the 290,000 jobs added in April, the most in four years. And May's figure would mark the biggest monthly gain in payrolls since more than 1 million jobs were generated in September 1983, when the country was recovering from a severe recession.

But a huge chunk of May's net job gains—perhaps 300,000 to 400,000—could come from the government's hiring of temporary census workers.

Census hiring typically peaks in May. That ensures the government has enough doorknockers to pursue people who didn't mail back their census forms. Higher productivity among census workers and a high mail-in response rate, though, could reduce the number of census workers needed. If so, the job total would come in lower than expected.

Jobs created by private companies in May could amount to around a net 175,000. That would mark a slowing from the 231,000 private jobs produced in April.

The unemployment rate is expected to drop a notch to 9.8 percent, from 9.9 percent, helped by the hiring of census and other workers. Still, economists think the rate will move higher this summer as census hiring fizzles and more people enter the work force looking for jobs.

Geithner: US can withstand Europe's debt crisis

WASHINGTON (AP)—Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said Thursday he doesn't think that the European debt crisis will derail the U.S. economic recovery. He also praised the steps Europe is taking to deal with the crisis.

Geithner said that because of the momentum the economy has built up over the past several months, the United States is in a strong position to weather the global turmoil caused by Europe's debt problems.

"I think it is important to note that the world economy came into this period of concerns about Europe with stronger underlying momentum and growth than many people expected," Geithner said in an interview with CNBC. "That is certainly true for the United States. I think we have a moderate but pretty solid recovery in place."

He said it was important for Europe to move quickly to put in place the support programs needed to bolster Greece and other European countries with heavy debt burdens.

"They have laid out a very strong program and they are starting to put that in place and it is starting to get a little more traction," Geithner said.

He said Europe's program of providing debt-payment support to Greece and a backup package for other nations, as well as working to trim high budget deficits represented a strong plan with the right elements.

He said the challenge would be "to put it in place." He praised actions that have already been taken by individual countries including Germany, Greece and Portugal.

Geithner was interviewed on a stopover in Alaska on his way to Busan, South Korea. There he will meet for two days of talks with finance ministers and central bank governors of the Group of 20 rich industrial countries and major developing nations such as China, Brazil and India.

One of the major issues the G-20 will be tackling is putting together the outlines of a coordinated program of financial reforms that can be endorsed by G-20 leaders, including President Barack Obama, when they meet in Toronto on June 26-27.

One of the issues being debated is developing a global standard for capital reserves that financial institutions must hold as cushion against potential loan losses.

Nation

Ariz. governor wants separating fence completed

WASHINGTON (AP)—Facing off over illegal immigration, Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer told President Barack Obama that Americans "want our border secured" and called Thursday for completion of a separating fence. Obama underscored his objections that the tough immigration law she signed is discriminatory.

Meeting in the Oval Office, Obama said Arizona's law and similar efforts by more than 20 states would interfere with the federal government's responsibility to set and enforce immigration policy.

Neither side appeared to give ground on the contentious issue although both talked about seeking a bipartisan solution.

Obama urged her to "be his partner" in working toward a comprehensive overhaul of the nation's badly fractured immigration system. Brewer told The Associated Press afterward that she told Obama her state is not ready for the comprehensive solution he favors.

"I said we need to have the fence completed, have more troops on the border and more resources" for aerial surveillance, she said.

Thursday's unusual meeting between the president and the governor was a byproduct of Brewer's decision to sign a first-in-the-nation law requiring police enforcing other laws to check immigration status if they suspect someone is in the country illegally. The law also makes being in the U.S. illegally a state crime. Brewer sought the meeting and the White House accepted.

AP

Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer is seen through a fence as she arrives for a private meeting with President Barack Obama at the White House in Washington, Thursday, June 3, 2010.

Emerging from the half-hour session, Brewer said Obama had assured her that the majority of the 1,200 National Guard troops he is sending to the U.S.-Mexico border would be going to her state.

Brewer said she and Obama, at odds over how to control illegal immigration, also agreed to try to work together on solutions. She said White House staff would visit Arizona in a couple of weeks to continue the "very cordial discussion" she had with the president.

"I believe the people of Arizona, the people of America, want our border secured," Brewer said.

Outside the White House, hundreds of protesters, as unhappy with the law as they are with Obama's inability to overhaul a system he and others say is broken, noisily greeted the Republican governor as she arrived for the meeting.

Nearly 200 people walked in a circle on the pedestrian-only portion of Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House - holding signs, chanting "Jan Brewer, shame on you!" beating drums and, in the case of one man, strumming a guitar.

BP trying to put a lid on the Gulf oil gusher

METAIRIE, La. (AP)—One-half of the cut and cap is done. Now comes the hard part—putting a lid on the Gulf oil gusher.

BP sliced off the main pipe on the leaking oil well with giant shears Thursday in the latest bid to curtail the worst oil spill in U.S. history, but the cut was jagged, and a looser fitting cap will be needed.

The inverted funnel-like cap slightly wider than the severed pipe will be placed over the spewing oil. A rubber seal on the inside will attempt to keep oil from escaping, though engineers acknowledge some crude will still come out.

"We'll have to see when we get the containment cap on it just how effective it is," said Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen, the government's point man for the disaster.

BP PLC turned to the giant shears after a diamond-tipped saw became stuck in the pipe halfway through the job, yet another frustrating delay in the six-week-old spill. The cap could be set over the gusher as early as Thursday night.

If the cap can be put on successfully, BP will siphon the oil and gas to a tanker on the surface.

"It's an important milestone, and in some sense, it's just the beginning," BP CEO Tony Hayward said.

This latest attempt is risky because slicing away the section of the 20-inch-wide riser removed a kink in the pipe, and could temporarily increase the flow of oil by as much as 20 percent.

Live video footage showed oil spewing unimpeded from the top of the blowout preventer, but Allen said it was unclear whether the flow had increased.

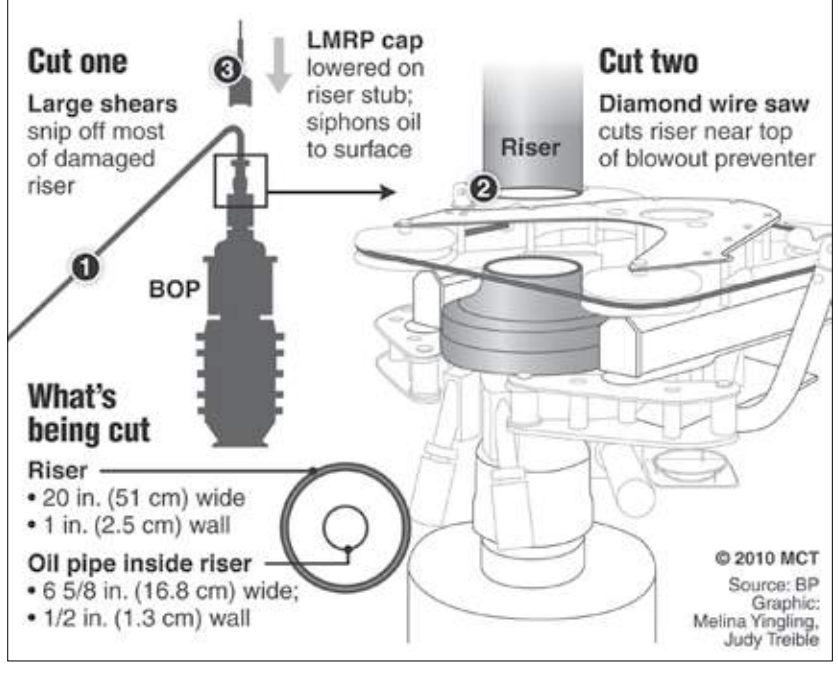
"I don't think we'll know until the containment cap is seated on there," he said. "We'll have to wait and see."

Crews will also use methanol to try to prevent icylike crystals from forming on the inside of the cap. At this depth a mile underwater, the near-freezing temperatures can cause a buildup up of hydrates, which foiled the company's attempt to place a 100-ton, four-story dome over the leak about a month ago.

The Deepwater Horizon rig, about 50 miles off the coast of Louisiana, exploded on April 20, killing 11 workers. An estimated 500,000 to 1 million gallons of crude has been spewing into the Gulf daily, and the company has failed so far to plug the busted well.

Cutting the riser

How BP says remote submarines are cutting the bent riser pipe before lowering a containment, or LMRP, cap on top of the gushing oil well:


Cut one
Large shears snip off most of damaged riser
LMRP cap lowered on riser stub; siphons oil to surface
Riser
Cut two
Diamond wire saw cuts riser near top of blowout preventer
BOP
What's being cut
Riser
• 20 in. (51 cm) wide
• 1 in. (2.5 cm) wall
Oil pipe inside riser
• 6 5/8 in. (16.8 cm) wide;
• 1/2 in. (1.3 cm) wall
© 2010 MCT
Source: BP
Graphic: Melina Yingling, Judy Treible

Obama shelves trip to Indonesia, Australia

WASHINGTON (AP)—Grappling with the worst oil spill in the nation's history, President Barack Obama has abruptly scrapped a trip to Indonesia and Australia for the second time this year.

The president informed the leaders of both countries of the news in phone calls Thursday night, offering his "deep regret" and pledging to reschedule soon, White House press secretary Robert Gibbs announced in a statement just after midnight. Obama was to depart on a weeklong trip to both countries, along with a quick stop in Guam, on June 13.

Obama

Asked the reason for the delay, Gibbs told The Associated Press that Obama was staying home "to deal with important issues, one of which is the oil spill."

Obama had a sensitive political decision to make: Risk putting off two allies in a strategic part of the world once again or endure all the downsides, including an inevitable level of backlash, for being on the other side of the world during a huge crisis at home.

The domestic agenda proved dominant.

Already, his administration faces scrutiny for its leadership in trying to end the oil spill in the Gulf even as the White House insists it has been forceful from the start. What began with an exploding oil rig on April 20 has turned into an environmental disaster.

Obama had planned this Asia trip in March—first shortening it to be in Washington and lobby for health care legislation and then scrapping it altogether to stay for the final crucial days of debate on that top domestic priority.

Congress ultimately passed the health care law after a huge investment from Obama.

Obama called Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd to explain his decision on Thursday.

Gibbs said Obama planned to meet with both leaders separately on the sidelines of the G-20 meeting, which is to be held near the end of June in Canada.

ACROSS THE NATION

Cannabis caravans fuel medical pot boom in Montana

HELENA, Mont. (AP)—As Bob Marley music wailed in the next room, the makeshift clinic hummed along like an assembly line: Patients went in to see a doctor, paid $150 and walked out with a recommendation that they be allowed to buy and smoke medical marijuana. So it went, all day, at a hotel just blocks from the state Capitol that was the latest stop of the so-called cannabis caravan, a band of doctors and medical marijuana advocates roaming Montana that has helped thousands of patients apply for medical marijuana cards from the state. "You're helping end suffering on this planet for human beings," clinic organizer Jason Christ said as he sat outside the hotel in an RV filled with pot smoke. To the dismay of state medical authorities and lawmakers, the caravans have helped the number of pot cardholders in Montana swell over the past year from about 3,000 to 15,000.

Holloway suspect accused of $250K extortion in Ala

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)—A Dutch man suspected in the 2005 disappearance of Natalee Holloway in Aruba was charged Thursday in Alabama with trying to extort $250,000 in return for disclosing the location of her body. A criminal complaint by the U.S. Attorney in federal court in Birmingham also accused van der Sloot in May 2010 of promising to describe the circumstances of Holloway's death in return for the money. According to a sworn statement, van der Sloot got a partial payment of $15,000 wired to a Netherlands bank soon after. He has long been a suspect in Aruba in the disappearance of Holloway, an 18-year-old from Mountain Brook, Ala., who was on a graduation trip to Aruba with other seniors when she turned up missing as they flew home. Her mother still lives in Alabama. The name of the person paying the money was not given. A call to U.S. Attorney Joyce Vance was not immediately returned.

SC police: Black man shot to death, body dragged

NEWBERRY, S.C. (AP)—Two men who worked at a South Carolina poultry processing plant had spent most of the day together Tuesday, hanging out late into the evening, maybe rehashing their long shifts. By the next morning, one of the men—who was black—was dead, shot to death and then dragged behind a pickup truck for more than 10 miles down a country road. The other—a white man—was in jail, charged with murder, and authorities were investigating the death as a possible hate crime. "We've not been able to rule that out," Reggie Lloyd, chief of the State Law Enforcement Division, said Thursday. "You have to chase that down, as an angle of this." The FBI has been working with Lloyd's agency to sort out what led up to the shooting death of Anthony Hill, 30. South Carolina has no state hate crime statute, and federal authorities have not decided if they will take over the case.

Asia

Naoto Kan is elected Japan's prime minister

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's parliament installed Naoto Kan as Japan's new prime minister Friday, handing the outspoken populist the task of quickly reclaiming public support squandered by his predecessor ahead of July elections.

"My task is to rebuild this nation," Kan said after he was chosen ruling party chief. Pledging to confront problems linking "money and politics," he also stressed the need to spur economic growth.

Kan, 63, was finance minister under the unpopular Yukio Hatoyama, who stepped down Wednesday amid plunging approval ratings over broken campaign promises and a political funding scandal.

As prime minister, Kan faces daunting choices in how to lead the world's second-largest economy, which is burdened with massive public debt, sluggish growth and an aging, shrinking population. He must also rally voter support ahead of upper house elections next month.

AP

Former Finance Minister Naoto Kan raises his hands after being elected as its new leader of his Democratic Party of Japan at the party's meeting in Tokyo Friday, June 4, 2010.

Kan, known for standing up to Japan's powerful bureaucrats, is the country's sixth prime minister in four years.

"We will work together as one in the face of the tough political situation and the upcoming upper house election and fight together unified," he said after the party vote. "Our first priority is to regain the trust of the people."

The path to the parliamentary vote began in the morning, when Hatoyama's Cabinet resigned en masse. Then the ruling Democratic Party of Japan voted Kan as its new leader. The lower house convened a couple hours later to approve Kan as prime minister.

Bangladesh fire kills up to 108, injures over 100

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—A huge fire raced through several apartment buildings and devastated a rooftop wedding party in the Bangladeshi capital, killing at least 108 people and injuring more than 100 others, officials and local media said Friday.

The blaze started when an electric transformer exploded late Thursday, igniting a three-story apartment building in the Najirabazar area of old Dhaka before spreading to several other buildings, fire official Nazrul Islam said.

Rescuers recovered at least 87 charred bodies from the buildings, and other people may have died on the way to hospital, Islam said. Citing officials at the scene and hospital doctors, ATN Bangla television station said at least 108 people were killed and more than 100 injured.

"It has caused a huge devastation," Islam told The Associated Press.

Victims included several guests of a wedding party on the roof of one of the apartment buildings, Islam said.

He said the firefighters had the blaze under control and that rescue efforts continued Friday.

Bangla Vision TV station quoted unnamed fire officials as saying the fire had spread to at least 20 apartment complexes. TV footage showed firefighters and residents carrying injured victims by tricycle rickshaws to hospitals as relatives wailed.

The state-run Dhaka Medical College Hospital was overwhelmed with burned patients. Burn unit chief Shamanta Lal Sen said he had seen "such a scenario" in his 40-year career.

ASIAN BRIEFS

South Korean general questioned in spy case

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's military is investigating a general suspected of leaking secrets to a former spy for Seoul who then sold the information to North Korea, officials and media reports said Friday. The army general, who wasn't identified, allegedly handed over a military operations plan for coping with emergencies in North Korea drawn up by South Korea and the U.S., the mass-circulation Chosun Ilbo newspaper said. The security breach apparently occurred a few years before the current spike in tensions over North Korea's alleged sinking of a South Korean warship in March which killed 46 sailors. The former spy, who worked for South Korea in the 1990s, has been arrested and accused of passing military secrets to the North between 2005 and 2007, the newspaper said.

China uses drones to spot opium fields

BEIJING (AP)—China has begun using unmanned aircraft to track down illegal poppy crops being grown in the suburbs around its capital as part of a monthlong anti-drug campaign, police said Friday. Beijing police announced the start of the "Eagle Eye 10" campaign at a meeting Thursday, said an officer surnamed Zhang from the drug control department of the city's public security bureau. Like many Chinese officials he declined to give his full name. Police will be using unmanned drones for the first time, along with helicopters, to search out opium fields in Beijing and surrounding Hebei province. Authorities did not release specifics on how much opium is being cultivated in those areas.

Afghan delegates hash out peace statement

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Delegates reconvened Friday for the planned final day of a national peace conference, hashing out details of a communique likely to endorse negotiations with the Taliban to try to end Afghanistan's years of war. With violence running at record levels, President Hamid Karzai wants to offer rank-and-file insurgents amnesties and other incentives to lay down their arms, and to hold talks with top Taliban leaders if they renounce al-Qaida and vow to uphold the constitution. Winning the backing of the conference would politically bolster Karzai, who is increasingly unpopular because of corruption in his government and his fraud-marred re-election last year.

World

Pope Benedict XVI makes sensitive trip to Cyprus

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Benedict XVI departs Friday on a sensitive three-day trip to Cyprus, a visit likely to be colored by shock over the killing in Turkey of a bishop who had been scheduled to meet with the pontiff.

Cyprus, an island divided between ethnic Turks and Greeks, is viewed by the Vatican as a bridge between Europe and the Middle East. The pope's visit is expected to be a key test of whether the pope has found his diplomatic feet after his linking of Islam to violence during a speech in Germany led to outrage in the Muslim world—and nearly forced the cancellation of a trip to Turkey in 2006.

His meeting with church officials from across the region could, however, be overshadowed by the death of Bishop Luigi Padovese, the church apostolic vicar in Anatolia, who was killed the day before he was to fly to Cyprus. Officials have identified the killer as the bishop's driver and say it was not politically motivated.

Pope Benedict XVI

The Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, said Padovese's killing shows the "difficult conditions" the Catholic community faces in the Middle East.

The pope is meeting in Cyprus with prelates from the region to set an agenda for an October meeting in Rome to build a strategy to stem an exodus of Catholics from the Holy Land, Iraq and elsewhere because of violence and economic hardship. The Middle East includes ancient Christian communities.

The October meeting shows "how the universal church is in solidarity with this community," Lombardi said.

Turkish group behind flotilla is Gaza's new hero

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—The Turkish group that bankrolled the aid flotilla raided by Israel has big plans for Gaza.

Its bearded 50-year-old leader has assumed hero status in the impoverished Palestinian territory, where he says his group plans to spend $25 million on housing, medical care and education.

Mehmet Kaya has been treated like a star wherever he goes since the deadly raid on Monday. Gazans young and old gather to shake his hand, and he enjoys ready access to leaders of the territory's ruling Islamic militant group Hamas.

"The Arab countries that are a part of us haven't done what Turkey did," said Jihan Balousha, 30, who bought her five children to meet Kaya at Gaza's dilapidated port Wednesday.

It's all part of Turkey's muscular push into the blockaded Gaza Strip and its growing ambition to be an influential player in the Middle East.

Israel accuses Kaya's group, known by its Turkish acronym IHH, of supporting terrorism. The Turkish activists vehemently deny that, saying they're strictly involved in humanitarian efforts and have to deal with Hamas, since it is the authority in Gaza.

Dutch suspect in Peru murder in Chilean custody

LIMA, Peru (AP)—A Dutch man linked to the 2005 disappearance of U.S. teen Natalee Holloway is in custody in Chile, facing potential murder charges in Peru and extortion charges in the U.S.

Joran van der Sloot was detained in a taxi Thursday after crossing the border from Peru, where authorities say the 22-year-old man is the prime suspect in Sunday's murder of 21-year-old Stephany Flores.

Authorities planned to fly van der Sloot back to the Peruvian border Friday morning, according to a Chilean police spokesman who spoke on condition that he not be named in line with department policy.

Chile's Interior Ministry was considering whether to send van der Sloot back to Peru, although officials say they have yet to receive an arrest warrant issued by Peru in connection with Sunday's killing of Flores.

A fixture on TV true-crime shows after Holloway's disappearance in Aruba, the Dutchman did not speak or even turn his head when photographers shouted his name as Chilean police escorted him, without handcuffs, into a Santiago station for questioning.

WORLD BRIEFS

UN rep: Haiti democracy depends on reconstruction

PUNTA CANA, Dominican Republic (AP)—Haiti's struggling democracy is in jeopardy if millions of earthquake survivors' lives are not improved, the top U.N. representative to the country said Wednesday at a conference on its reconstruction. The meeting, held at the resort of Punta Cana, is the first for the reconstruction committee led by former U.S. President Bill Clinton and Haitian Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive. Together they will oversee an estimated $5.3 billion in reconstruction projects through next year. Some 90 international delegations met to discuss the priorities to be given to 40 projects including housing, free-trade zones, electricity, education, government strengthening and agriculture. "The longer that the victims continue living in precarious conditions, the more they will have reason to be discontent. That discontent can be manipulated for political ends," U.N. envoy Edmond Mulet said.

Head of large Congo human rights group found dead

KINSHASA, Congo (AP)—A leading Congolese human rights activist killed this week had suffered a pattern of intimidation because of his work, a senior U.N. official said Thursday, as a rights group questioned whether police were already staging a cover-up. The body of Floribert Chebeya Bahizire, head of Voix des Sans Voix, or Voice of the Voiceless, was found in his car Wednesday in a suburb of Congo's capital. The rights group, one of the largest in Congo, said he appeared to have been strangled. "For more than 20 years, Chebeya Bahizire had survived many death threats, arrests, and ill treatment due to his work as a human rights defender. He believed in the cause of human rights and was not afraid to pursue it against all odds," Navi Pillay, the U.N. high commissioner for human rights, said Thursday.

Maharlika
PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS
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Labor migration a 'mom-and-pop' story no more

Asia structurally dependent on labor migration—analysts

By JEREMAIAH M. OPINIANO
OFW JOURNALISM CONSORTIUM

PASIG CITY–Analysts claim the movement of workers from home countries in Asia already reached a level wherein their economies are now "structurally dependent" on migration.

Labor migration for Asia is "not a mom-and-pop story anymore," Maria Alcestis Mangahas of the International Labor Organization told migration analysts and stakeholders at a recent forum here.

Mangahas, ILO senior migration specialist, said the advancement of labor migration to such level occurred independent of the recent global financial crisis, natural disasters, and political strife that hit Asia in the past three years.

"Migration is no longer ad hoc."

Hence, Mangahas challenged policy forum participants to face migration squarely, something that an Asian Development Bank paper says is the correct attitude.

This is important since the ADB paper authors noted an "Asian advantage" when migration for work is liberalized —whether within Asia or to other regions of the world by 2012.

But the authors of the 2008 paper "Asian Migration Prospects: 2007-2010" warned officials must be clear of what they want.

"What do labor-sending countries want —higher growth in real GDP [gross domestic product] or higher real incomes for their citizenry?" authors Terrie Walmsley and S. Amer Ahmed posited.

If higher growth in real GDP, then the economic gains from liberalizing migration "are not guaranteed and, if they do occur, only do so in the long run once businesses have had a chance to respond by building more factories."

But if higher real incomes for the citizenry through remittances, Walmsley and Ahmed think that the gains are greatest "when more migrants are sent overseas and more remittances are received".

Walmsley and Ahmed performed econometric simulations using what they call a general equilibrium model and provided five scenarios of how liberalizing migration benefits both to sending and receiving Asian countries of migrant workers come the year 2012.

The computations show that both sending and receiving countries can benefit from liberalizing migration in terms of real GDP.

If developed Asian economies such as Japan, Korea, Taiwan and Singapore have more skilled and low-skilled migrant workers by 2012, these economies gain in terms of real GDP.

If the migration of Asian migration is headed towards North America, Europe and the Oceania regions, countries such as India, the Philippines and the rest of East Asia would rather send labor to these regions than to within Asia given higher real income gains.

When the scenario is global liberalization of migrant labor, Asian economies lose less unlike the situation when Asian countries send migrant labor to Japan, Korea, Taiwan and Singapore only, the paper said.

If migrant workers from Asia are sent to the Middle East, Walmsley's and Ahmed's migrant-sending economies experience declines in real GDP —especially for India and the rest of South Asia which were computed to have the sharpest declines.

And if the liberalization of migration is within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), "the countries that benefit most from these gains are those that currently have the largest number of citizens resident in other countries, most notably Malaysia, which is the home of 67 percent of migrants in Asean."

Walmsley's and Ahmed's paper shows that Malaysia "gains by far the most in terms of real GDP and income, followed by Singapore, the Philippines, and Indonesia."

If working conditions of migrant workers within Asean improve, coupled with legalizing irregular migrant workers, such migration-related efforts by Asean countries "could offer a beneficial alternative."

In all five scenarios presented by Walmsley and Ahmed, both India and the Philippines benefitted in terms of seeing many people having increased real incomes due to their remittances.

As well, skilled migrant workers are more productive in these five scenarios compared to low-skilled migrant workers.

AP

A man carries ducks which he sells for 160 Pesos (about US$3) each around an upscale village in Taguig city, south of Manila, Philippines on Sunday, May 30, 2010. Many Filipinos resort to odd jobs to cope with unemployment and poverty, which afflicts a third of the 90 million population.

Permanence

IN view of such scenarios, Mangahas noted that Asian countries that have endured various economic impacts of either a natural or a man-made crisis reflect their "need" for labor migration.

Thus, this phenomenon is "no longer temporary."

"If the situation is going to be [such], we [Asian countries] must make a decision to like this temporary migration program or not."

Yet Mangahas thinks it will take time for receiving Asian countries to totally eliminate their need for foreign labor.

Thus, it pays that Asian countries address problems usually associated with migration, Mangahas said, such as: irregular migration, the cycle of debt facing migrant workers, the overseas contracts that migrant workers sign prior to departure and are dishonoured in host countries, and the sentiment of the public in receiving countries towards migrants.

"We must go back then to the fundamentals: Do Asian countries take migration seriously? Is it [recognized as] a labor market issue, as well as a human rights issue?"

While Walmsley and Ahmed have proven the benefits of migration to Filipino migrant workers and their Indian counterparts, labor migration for origin countries like the Philippines remains temporary even as the government achieved increasing numbers in the deployment of overseas workers in 2009.

The rising deployment was spurred in part by administrative orders by outgoing President Gloria Arroyo pressuring the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) to accelerate finding new job markets for overseas Filipino workers given the crisis.

One is AO 247 ordering the POEA to go full blast in finding more overseas job opportunities.

But Dr. Maruja Asis of the Quezon City-headquartered Scalabrini Migration Center thinks AO 247 "violates" a provision of Republic Act 8042, where the state does not promote overseas employment as a strategy for economic development.

But Mangahas, noticing how the global economic crisis staved off a negative impact unto overseas Filipinos and their billion-dollar remittances, thinks that market promotion by origin countries for overseas jobs is "worth evaluating".

Market promotion is also sending countries "good, strong political statements in filling up employment," Mangahas added.

"The reality is that if theory thinks that labor migration will go away, it does not happen that way. Thus, Asian countries [sending and receiving migrant workers] should face and confront the problem."

Malaysia appears to have been doing so, according to analyst Vijayakumari Kanapathy.

She said that Malaysia plans to lessen its dependency on foreign labor in the next three years.

The ADB paper thinks that policies by Asian countries related to liberalizing labor migration "offer potential gains in terms of real income and long-run economic growth, particularly for those countries in East and Southeast Asia." ***OFW Journalism Consortium***

Arroyo hopes to leave economic legacy for Philippines

MANILA, Philippines—With less than a month before she steps down, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Friday said she wanted to be remembered as the leader who modernized the Philippine economy.

The 63-year-old grandmother and former economics professor said she looked forward to a lower-profile role as an elected member of Congress following her nine years in power.

Arroyo is to stand down at midday on June 30 when the new president, Benigno Aquino III is to be sworn into office for a six-year term.

"I would like my presidency to be remembered as one that stabilized the economy, did the fundamentals to modernize our economy and stabilize our country and modernize our economy," she told GMA and ABS-CBN television.

Asked about lessons learnt, Arroyo said: "The lesson is never give up, change is hard, be focused and as my father said, don't be there to enjoy but to sacrifice and be willing to suffer if need be."

Aquino, who is set to be proclaimed by Congress as the official winner of the May 10 vote, has vowed to have Arroyo investigated for alleged corruption and election fraud.

Aides said Arroyo, daughter of the late Philippine leader Diosdado Macapagal, had nothing to answer for and was ready to face her critics.

Elected vice president in 1998, Arroyo came to power in 2001 after a bloodless, military-backed coup ousted Joseph Estrada, who was later jailed, convicted of corruption, and pardoned by Arroyo.

Arroyo later won a full six-year term in 2004 elections that were marred by fraud allegations and led to two failed attempts to impeach her.

"I'm the same person–just older, maybe a little wiser," Arroyo said. "I still have a very strong belief in the Filipino people."

Asked what aspects of her presidency she would not miss, she said: "The destructive politics of the critics who offer no alternative on policies and programs, just destructive political noise."

Arroyo

Asked to describe herself, she said: "Well, focused, but if you want another word, tough. If you want another word, compassionate." ***(Agence France-Presse)***

Vice presidential race stops canvass

» 1.4M untallied votes to decide Binay-Roxas fight

By MICHAEL LIM UBAC, NORMAN BORDADORA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The joint congressional committee suspended the canvassing of votes Thursday night with just five certificates of canvass (CoCs) to be tallied, leaving the question of who officially won in the vice presidential race hanging.

Some 1.4 million votes are expected to be tallied from the five CoCs.

When the joint committee suspended session Thursday night, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay was leading by 644,752 votes over Manuel Roxas II.

In the presidential race, Sen. Benigno Aquino III's lead of 5.5 million votes over deposed President Joseph Estrada was considered insurmountable.

House Deputy Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II said the joint canvassing committee could finish the canvassing on Monday and the proclamation of the winners in the top two elective posts could come a couple of days after.

The latest tally as of 6:56 p.m. involving 273 of the 278 CoCs showed that Binay had 14,084,879 votes; Roxas had 13,440,127.

Aquino got 14,641,803 votes, while his closest rival, Estrada, obtained 9,125,823.

Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri moved to suspend the canvassing about five minutes before 9 p.m. because the votes in the five still uncanvassed areas "could materially affect" the outcome of the vice presidential race.

The uncanvassed areas are Davao City (550,236 votes), Bacolod (205,282 votes), Mountain Province (74,791), Eastern Samar (more than 100,000) and Lanao del Sur (more than 500,000).

"Therefore, it is material to the outcome of the VP race," Zubiri told the session.

He said Lanao del Sur just held special elections while Eastern Samar had yet to submit a manually delivered copy of its CoC.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, who co-chairs the canvassing proceedings, then banged the gavel suspending the session until 1 p.m. Monday.

Gonzales said the joint session could convene "on Tuesday at the earliest and on Wednesday at the latest."

He said the prospective winners were expected to be advised to be in the vicinity while Congress was tackling the joint canvassing committee report through nominal voting. Lawmakers are given three minutes to explain their vote on whether to approve the report of the committee.

Roxas lawyer asks to defer tally

Earlier, in a move that also delayed the canvassing, the lawyer of Roxas asked the joint congressional committee to defer the canvassing of CoCs from nine vote-rich provinces.

The provinces are Cavite, Bulacan, Laguna, Cagayan de Oro City, Isabela, Nueva Ecija, North Cotabato, Cebu and Basilan.

But delaying the proclamation of the winner of the presidential election was not on the mind of the camp of Aquino.

At 6:28 p.m., one of Aquino's lawyers moved that the joint committee proclaim the Liberal Party standard-bearer.

"Senator Aquino is leading by 5.26 million votes and per our assessment, there are only less than two million votes left to be counted," Joel Cadiz said.

Zubiri told the lawyer to "be patient" since the committee would have to finish the canvassing process, settle contentious issues and come up with a committee report.

"Just for the record, your honor," Cadiz answered.

No to null votes issue

Speaker Prospero Nograles, co-chair of the joint canvassing committee, earlier also said the proclamation of the next president and vice president would be done on Monday.

No canvassing would be conducted on Friday as Congress convenes for its sine die session.

Nograles said the joint canvassing committee would no longer look into the issue of the null votes that the lawyers of Roxas wanted tackled.

"(The null votes) were machine-rejected and outside our functions to canvass," Nograles said.

Nograles said a joint session of Congress would have to ratify the findings of the joint canvassing committee.

Lawyers for Estrada expressed concern over the alleged rush to proclaim the winners of the presidential and vice presidential races despite what they called were unanswered issues on the automation process.

AP

A staffer uses a bolt cutter to open a few remaining ballot boxes containing election returns at the official canvassing of votes for President and Vice-president by the joint Senate and Congress sitting as National Board of Canvassers, Thursday June 3, 2010 at the House of Representatives at Manila's Quezon city.

BSP chief's brother murdered

By DING CERVANTES
THE PHILIPPINE STAR

ANGELES CITY, Pampanga—A brother of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco and two others were found dead with multiple gunshot wounds in a parked Ford Expedition sport utility vehicle in a vacant lot along Friendship Avenue here yesterday morning.

Police investigators from Station 5 here identified the victims as Rene Tetango, 42, uncle of Apalit, Pampanga Mayor Jun Tetangco; his friend businessman Florencio Yap, son of the owner of Yap Bun King Hardware; and Yap's aide Dennis Guinto.

The BSP governor confirmed to The STAR that the victim was indeed his youngest brother, but he refused to comment on the incident until the official report comes in.

An investigator, who asked not to be named, said the van (YAT-225) belongs to Yap's wife.Tetangco's body was found in the van's front passenger seat. Yap's body was in the rear seat, while Guinto was curled on the floor of the back compartment, investigators said.

They bore multiple gunshot wounds in the chest and head, according to probers.Police said the SUV was parked under an acacia tree on a vacant lot between Friendship Avenue and Timog Avenue near a Korean Christian church.Joseph Maderaso, a security guard of Bavarian Lions restaurant, first noticed the parked SUV.

Maderaso initially thought that the passengers were merely asleep, but when he peeked inside the SUV on his way to buy food, he found the bloodied victims.

Senior Superintendent Danilo Bautista, Angeles City police director, theorized that the victims were shot elsewhere, with Guinto in the driver's seat, and the vehicle dumped in the area to mislead investigators.

After the shooting, the suspect or suspects dragged Guinto's body to the back compartment and drove the SUV to the vacant lot where it was abandoned. Probers said that an acquaintance of the victims noticed the familiar SUV at the site.

Gambling eyed as motive

The acquaintance, he said, identified the victims as among those he usually played poker with at the King's Poker Sports Club in this city.

Further investigation showed that Yap entered the Kings Poker Sport Club at about 9 p.m. last Tuesday and left the gambling premises at around 4:45 a.m.

Video footage of the casino showed Tetangco followed Yap inside.

Manicurist of Arroyo begs off from 'midnight appointment'

By TJ BURGONIO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's manicurist has begged off from her "midnight appointment" to the Board of Pag-IBIG Fund after it stirred a furor, Malacañang said Thursday.

Press Undersecretary Rogelio Peyuan confirmed that Anita Carpon rejected her controversial presidential appointment, and this has been "automatically withdrawn."

"What I know is that she has begged off from her appointment because of the criticisms that came her way," the deputy presidential spokesperson said in an interview. "That's automatically withdrawn.

Peyuan, however, said he wasn't aware of the fate of gardener Armando Macapagal, whom Ms Arroyo appointed as deputy of the Luneta Park Administration.

"I'm not aware of the status of the gardener," he said.

The appointments of Carpon and Macapagal were among a flurry of appointments that Ms Arroyo made a day ahead of the March 10 ban on appointments and that stirred a lot of controversy.

She also revamped the boards of the National Museum and the National Historical Institute.

GMA will congratulate Noynoy once proclaimed

By PAOLO ROMERO
THE PHILIPPINE STAR

MANILA, Philippines—President Arroyo will not hesitate to congratulate and call on Filipinos to support Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III once he is proclaimed by Congress as the country's new president, her spokesman said yesterday.

Deputy presidential spokesman Rogelio Peyuan said the move would help lower the political temperature and signal the start of a peaceful transition and reconciliation.

"The President will surely do her rightful part and will definitely congratulate the winner immediately after the proclamation to be made by the national board of canvassers – that the country must expect," Peyuan told a news briefing.

"I'm sure that's going to be the first move of the President the moment she learns of the results of the national canvassing," he said.

"I surmise the President will call on the entire nation to unite behind the new leadership," he said.

He said Arroyo's gesture is expected to help clear the political air and open the doors to reconciliation.

"Definitely that (reconciliation) would be the best thing that will happen to us," he said.

"It would really matter for the entire nation hearing the sitting President extending her congratulatory words or messages to the winners of the elections," Peyuan said.

Foreign diplomats, including new US Ambassador Harry Thomas, have already paid courtesy calls or sent congratulatory messages to Aquino even before his proclamation.

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Philippines, Muslim rebels to continue peace talks

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine government and Muslim rebel negotiators agreed Thursday to continue talks to end the decades-long separatist rebellion in the country's troubled south after President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo steps down later this month.

In their final meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the current government peace panel and representatives of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front signed a declaration to pursue a political settlement, a Philippine foreign affairs official said.

Congress is expected next week to officially proclaim opposition Senator Benigno Aquino III, the son of the country's democracy icons, as Arroyo's successor after last month's national elections.

The official ballot count shows that Aquino could win as president by a landslide. Arroyo, who has been president since 2001, is to step down on June 30.

"Today, we put closure to this stage of the peace negotiations with a clear statement by both parties that we will preserve our gains and accomplishments, and work our best for the continuation of the talks," Foreign Undersecretary Rafael Seguis, the chief government peace negotiator, said in a statement.

The Kuala Lumpur declaration "will provide a smooth transition to the next administration," Seguis said.

The two sides welcomed the participation of the European Union in the International Monitoring Team, which monitors the cease-fire, and the involvement of Norway as the newest team member.

Malaysia has been brokering the talks since they began in 1997.

The declaration said the negotiators also discussed "new formulas" that will respond to the aspirations of Muslims for a just peace and self-governance.

Arroyo's administration failed to seal a preliminary peace pact after it was opposed by Christian politicians in 2008. The Supreme Court declared the pact unconstitutional, sparking fierce fighting that killed hundreds and displaced about 750,000 people. A cease-fire has taken hold since then.

Aquino has said he will restart talks with the rebels and will consult all affected groups, including Christian politicians, to ensure acceptance of any peace pact.

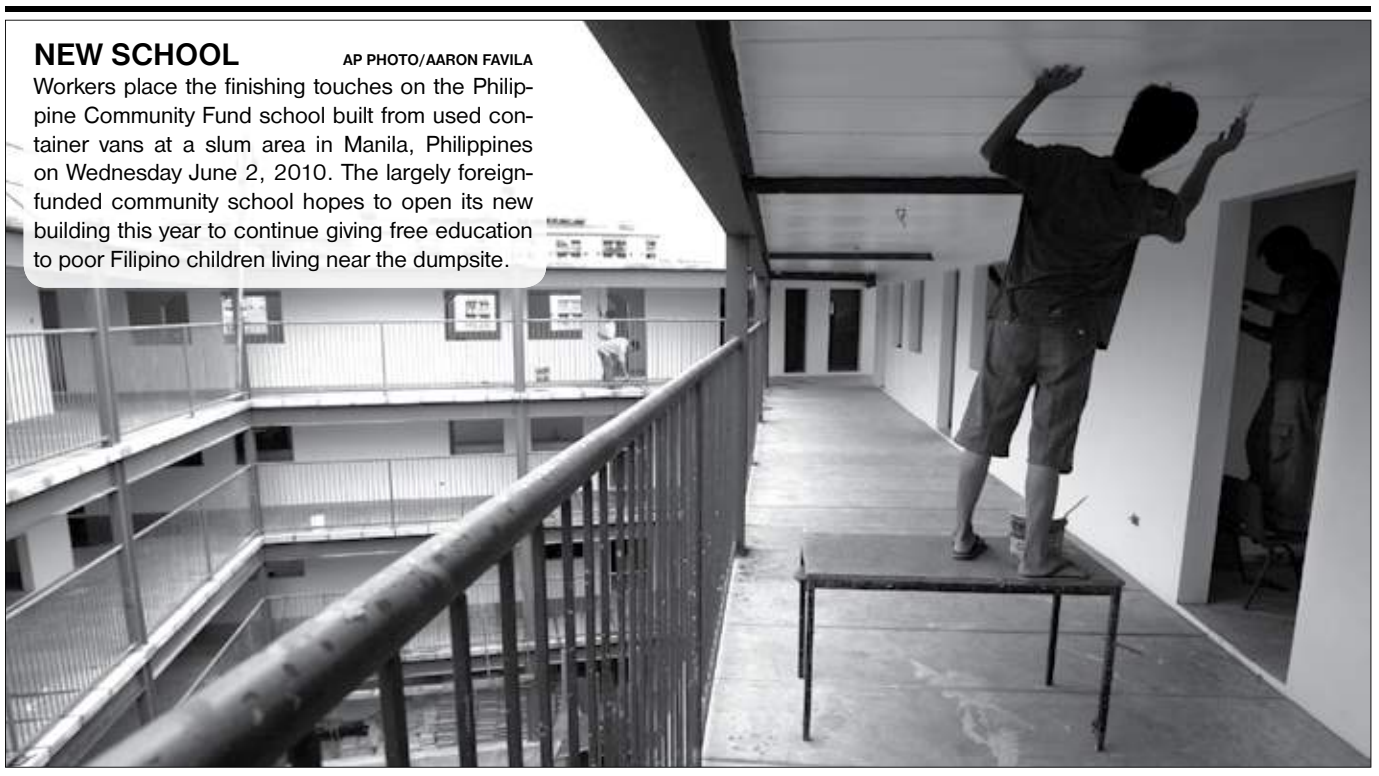
The rebels have congratulated Aquino on his expected victory, saying in an editorial on their website last month that he deserved "the admiration of all" for a near-impossible feat of having the winning edge in the elections even though he decided late to enter the presidential race.

"Noynoy is surely a good man, but as president, it remains to be seen," the rebels said, calling Aquino by his nickname.

They praised his late parents — the late President Corazon Aquino and Benigno Aquino Jr., who was assassinated in 1983 on his return from exile to unite the opposition against then dictator Ferdinand Marcos — for supporting the cause of minority Muslims.

NEW SCHOOL AP PHOTO/AARON FAVILA

Workers place the finishing touches on the Philippine Community Fund school built from used container vans at a slum area in Manila, Philippines on Wednesday June 2, 2010. The largely foreign-funded community school hopes to open its new building this year to continue giving free education to poor Filipino children living near the dumpsite.



New York think tank raises RP growth forecast

New York-based think tank Global Source has upgraded its economic growth forecast for the Philippines this year to 5.1 percent, from 3.7 percent, following the country's "astonishing" first-quarter performance.

In a June 2 commentary written by Filipino economists Romeo Bernardo and Margarita Gonzales, the surprise factor that accounted for the first quarter figure was the 20.7-percent growth in manufacturing activity—a double-digit rate unseen since 1988.

The think tank noted that manufacturing had uncharacteristically added 4.3 percentage points to overall growth, likely supported by export recovery.

Also, Global Source estimated that economic activity directly related to the elections could have contributed less than 2 percentage points at best.

"The Philippine growth story seems to be in line with that of other Asian economies, which have mostly [recovered] from a slump," the research said.

"Thus, for as long as the global revival continues, which may support both private consumption through remittances as well as exports, we expect growth to remain quite strong even with the elections over, and despite the likely cutback in fiscal spending after earlier election-related frontloading."

The upgrade in its forecast, Global Source said, took into account some moderation of growth going forward and a bit of a slowdown in expected world growth in the second half. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Mooplace: Filipinos' new home on the Web

INQUIRER.net

NEW ZEALAND—When the social networking revolution kicked in, Bob Carpenter, a Kiwi, and Filipino Information and Technology professionals worked out a plan for Filipinos to have their own networking website.

Thus, www.mooplace.com was born.

And barely five months online, www.mooplace.com, is now home to thousands of Filipinos worldwide, and they're in it for free.

To encourage thousands more to link up, Carpenter and his team for this month will be redesigning the site for fast, reliable, safe, and easy access.

Aside from allowing Filipinos to simply keep in touch, Mooplace also provides immigration advice and information on jobs and countries, cities or simply a place to live.

Other features on www.mooplace.com: blogging, moo twitter, video chat, shout box, video messages, high quality music videos, movies and documentaries; photo albums, over 4,000 games, a buy and sell page, and online polls where members can vote on issues.

The site also gives the reader an opportunity to advertise his or her business via directory for free, to post opinions via Forum, and browse through and post pictures of events of Filipino communities worldwide.

www.mooplace.com provides free storage for members who will create their own digital photo albums, music libraries, personal video, and art works. Members are encouraged to create a customized page.

Another exciting feature of Mooplace is a regular photo competition where last May's winners won total cash prizes of P45,000.

The next contest began on June 1.

Mooplace is a real web community, a work in progress as members are welcome to suggest what they want to see on the site.

Log on to http://www.mooplace.com and be part of this community.

TAKE CHARGE

Time for a money makeover

Editor's Note: This is part of Take Charge of Your Money, a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.

Q: I want to be more responsible when it comes to handling money. That's what our church has been reminding us—to be good stewards of the financial resources given to us. I must admit I need a total overhaul in this department. Can you help me please?—Janet

A: One of the best things you can do for yourself and your family is indeed to be a good steward of your finances. Being a good steward means being a good manager, and this calls for some goal-setting and devising of strategies.

This may seem like something a professional can do for you. Although you can tap a financial adviser to help you sort out your finances, you can very well do a money makeover by yourself. Just follow our simple tips down below.

1. Visualize your goal. Plans require a goal, and a financial plan is no exception. Be honest with yourself and identify what goal or goals you want to achieve in the future. Such goals may include getting out of debt, investing in a condominium unit, or establishing a retirement fund. Whatever your goal/s is/are, write it down to help you remember it.

2. Have a money notebook or file. If you are the pen-and-paper type of person, buy a nice notebook or journal. If you are high tech and prefer to go paperless, start with a spreadsheet on your computer. These files, whether on paper or electronic form, should contain your budget, a record of actual expenses, a list of your payables, and your payment plan for debts.

3. Write down your budget. Every person desiring to be financially secure should have a working budget which would set down the parameters of one's spending. Based on your income, make provision for savings (at least 10 percent), then allot the rest for your usual expenditure items. Put a spending limit on each expense item. Be guided by your budget throughout the month.

4. List down your expenses—everything, from candy to big-ticket purchases and bills. By listing down your expenditures, you will be able to compare your spending against your budget. If you are overspending, find out the reason and take steps to curb the habit.

5. Have a monthly spending limit. Put a monthly spending limit on your purchases. It should be an amount you can afford, taking into account your other budgeted expenses monthly. If you own a credit card, make sure you don't spend more than you can afford to pay. It is good to have a credit card as you will be able to purchase items even if you don't have the cash on hand as of the moment, but use it wisely.

6. If you are heavily in debt, stop spending. You may do so literally (some have done so) to stop yourself from further burying yourself in debt. Stick to the essentials, and forego luxuries from now, even small things like taking a taxi to work, when there are cheaper means of transportation available.

7. Shop in bulk for items you need regularly. Great bargains may be had at warehouse clubs or discount stores. If the number of items per bulk purchase is too much for your small household, split the purchase with a family member or friend.

8. Prepare for the future. Take out health insurance and life insurance, especially if you are the breadwinner of the family. This will protect your family from financial burden if you get sick or when you pass away.

9. Have a "money buddy." Ask your spouse or best friend to regularly check on your money habits and hold you accountable for your money makeover steps. By having someone check on you, chances are you will be more motivated to meet your goals.

10. Spend less. It's a simple rule that most people ignore. But it really works if you want to be financially secure. Before buying anything-that goes for literally anything, from grocery items to cars-compare prices. Choose the best quality at the lowest cost. Check the Internet or newspaper advertisements for prices of items you are interested to buy. And when you see a promotion, take advantage of it if it will bring you added benefits. Be a smart shopper.

These are only some money makeover tips you can easily do. Start doing them this week; don't delay. We wish you the best!

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Maharlika – PinoyStyle

RUSHES

Choosy politico demands cute interviewer

By the INQUIRER ENTERTAINMENT STAFF
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—At a high-profile event, Closeted Politico was agitated until he was assured by assistants that Cute Reporter, latest apple of his eye, had been invited.

Plus, CP wanted CR to interview him and wouldn't settle for anyone else. It must be love.

Tough rivals

Pretty Starlet went steady with Handsome Hunk in spite of her parents and handlers' vehement protests.

So why did PS suddenly break up with HH? Is it because she finally faced the harsh reality that she has to share him with a slew of gay benefactors?

Gun banned

Debonair Stud was raring to shoot a film out of town. From a taping, he went straight to the location. However, DS was stopped at a checkpoint and the police discovered a gun in his possession.

Perhaps DS forgot that the election-time gun ban was still in effect? Was the gun a prop in his previous taping?

DS was detained for a while and had to be replaced by another actor.

Johnny come lately

Yet another Dashing Hunk caused a slight hassle on the set of a film that's being shot in the province.

He earlier accepted another assignment that conflicted with the film's shooting schedule. DH hasn't been sacked, but his tardiness left the production in a frantic state.

Mariel Rodriguez may have split from BF Zanjo Marudo, but she says they can still "watch movies together and do whatever ..."

Denial queen for hire

In an interview, Dramatic Actress claimed she was still happily involved with Present Partner. She acted like nothing was the matter—though PP had confirmed the breakup.

A few days later, DA granted a TV interview in which she belatedly confessed the separation. Why the sudden loquaciousness? Was it because of the P20,000 talent fee she received for the TV interview?

Cool love nest for hot pair

Screen Stud is allegedly involved with Gay Politico, who's still hiding in the closet.

SS and GP purportedly meet up in a rest house in a mountain resort. What better way to beat the summer heat!

Top of the talk shows

For those who missed last weekend's gabfests on TV. (And why we are moved, if we are moved.)

■ Judy Ann Santos on expecting a baby boy: "Medyo maluha-luha ako na hindi ko maintindihan." (We understand.)

■ Paolo Contis on plans of marrying Lian Paz: "Hindi namin pine-pressure 'yong sarili namin. Pagmamahal namin sa isa't isa ay tumindi dahil iba na ang bond. I make sure na reassured si Lian na walang dahilan para mag-alala." (Dapat lang.)

■ Kris Bernal on fans' reaction to her closeness to Daniel Matsunaga while in a love team with Aljur Abrenica: "Siyempre, malungkot po sa akin. Magkasama kami [ni Aljur] for three years. Pero lahat … ng love team dadaan sa paghi-hiwalay. Iyong tungkol kay Daniel, nagiging close kami." (Here we go.)

■ Mariel Rodriguez on her friendship with ex-boyfriend Zanjoe Marudo: "We watch a movie, we can do whatever … okay lang naman kasi talaga 'yung state namin ngayon, we are friends." (Hello, Robin?)

■ Cogie Domingo on Angel Locsin's denial that they were an item: "Siyempre masakit po pero hindi ko po alam kung ano ang rason." (Parang alam namin.) ***With Gerry Plaza (Startalk, Entertainment Live, The Buzz, Showbiz Central, Paparazzi)***

'Noy,' the namesake

By MARINEL R. CRUZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

There's more than meets the eye to sharing the first name of a famous personality, Coco Martin's character learns in the independent film "Noy," which the actor co-directs and co-produces.

This is especially true when the personality is the leading presidential candidate, who becomes the namesake-journalist's subject for a story.

"Noy" is about a journalist commissioned to document the campaign of his namesake, presidential aspirant Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III.

Coco had to employ what he called "guerilla tactics" while working on the film to avoid being mobbed and causing delay in the shooting.

"It was tough," Coco told Inquirer Entertainment. "I was used to running around the city while filming and nobody notices me. Now the moment I get out of the car, curious people come after me."

Coco was dubbed Prince of Indie Cinema after appearing in

Coco Martin

award-winning indie films like "Masahista (2005)," "Kaleldo (2006)," "Tambolista" (2007), "Batanes (2008) and "Kinatay" (2009). The Kapamilya drama series "Tayong Dalawa," where he played rebellious son Ramon, paved the way for his successful crossover to mainstream entertainment.

"'Noy' took six months to make," said Coco, who had to shoot some footage from an audience point of view to avoid being mobbed. "The longest time I had previously worked on a film was 11 days. For this movie, I went to about 20 provinces. We followed Senator Noynoy (Aquino) on some of his campaign sorties in Davao, Cebu and Samar."

Coco admitted that when he first set out to do this project, he was unaware of the state of local politics and the goings-on in the life of a journalist. "There was even a scene where I was supposed to ask Senator Noy questions and I didn't know what to ask," he said. "The senator even corrected me. Nakakahiya."

Award-winning actress Cherry Pie Picache, who plays Coco's mother, said she was drawn to the project's two-fold plot. "It's an overview of how politics, or the campaign in particular, is done in the Philippines," she explained. "It also depicts what a typical Filipino family is like—a family full of love and hope."

The project was conceptualized in September 2009, when Coco first met the Aquino family at a dinner hosted by his "Kung Tayo'y Magkakalayo" co-star Kris, Noynoy's youngest sister.

Coco's co-director, Dondon Santos, said he "gave his all" to the project, his very first indie film. "I'm very proud of it and of the actors I worked with—Coco, Cherry Pie, Erich (Gonzales) Jhong (Hilario) and Kristofer (King). Our goal is for this film to be an eye-opener to Filipinos, to make them realize that there's still hope for this country."

"Noy," which premiered in local theaters on June 2, will also have screenings from June 11 to 17 in cinemas in San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego in California.

DJ Mo: Rhian is my No. 1 crush

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

I immensely enjoyed bonding with my fab friends Gloria Diaz, May Neri and my second mom, Tita Nena (Amalia Fuentes) at Cuillere restaurant. It was Gloria's belated birthday dinner hosted by Facial Care Center, which helps maintain her Ms Universe charms.

We were teasing Glo that she looks younger and it's her banker BF Mike de Jesus (who's 10 years her junior) who has aged. Mike is such a good sport. He joined in the ribbing. "When we go out, people come up to me and ask me if she's my niece."

They've been together for 12 years. Their secret for a lasting relationship? "Marriage and living-in will ruin everything. It may work for others but not for us," Glo said. "We just travel together a lot to keep things exciting."

The birthday girl wishes to host a public affairs program. "I want to be assigned to the field and get to the bottom of the story," she said. "I don't want to be cooped up in the studio reading the news. That's boring. I want to be where the action is."

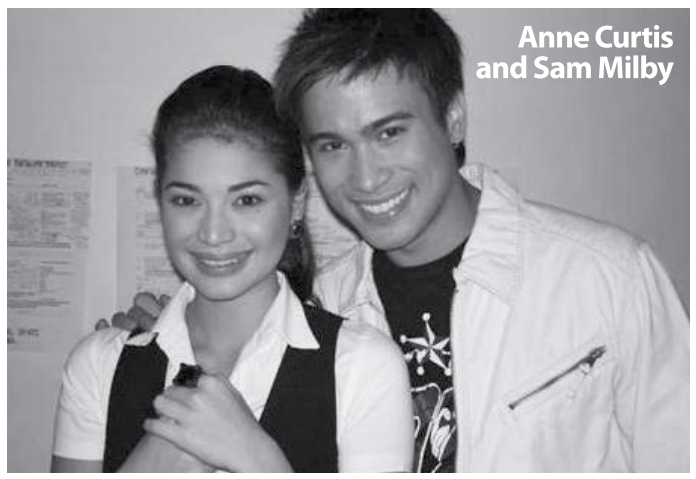
Tita Nena was en route to the United States with Cutie del Mar. We teased her that sparks might fly if she bumps into her ex, Bobby Vasquez there.

"I love being single again," Tita Nena said. "I want to enjoy life and keep traveling with no more excess baggage from the past."

We fondly call our group Sex and the City Pinay version. Glo is Samantha, May is Charlotte, I'm Carrie and Tita Nena is Miranda. Cheers to Woman Power!

■ ■ ■

I cornered DJ Mo about his secret romance with Rhian Ramos while we were at the studio for "Paparazzi."



Anne Curtis and Sam Milby

"She's my No. 1 crush," he admitted. "But there's nothing going on between us."

Even if Ruffa, Tita Cristy and I were bombarding him with questions about Rhian being with him during his vacation in Paris, Mo refused to budge. But the blush on his face and twinkle in his eye gave him away.

Perhaps Rhian and Mo have their reasons for wanting to keep their relationship under wraps. They have flourishing careers to protect. In the biz, it's better to have a low-key relationship so things won't turn off-key due to the media circus.

■ ■ ■

Richard Gutierrez and Borgy Manotoc were spotted at M Cafe with Georgina Wilson and their friends. Chard happens to be Georgina's ex and Borgy is her current squeeze. Two Gentlemen and a Lady living happily ever after!

■ ■ ■

Looks like a reconciliation between Anne Curtis and Sam Milby is a remote possibility. Anne Curtis is dating Erwan, the half-French, half-Pinoy brother of Derek Ramsey's ex, Solenn. Or is he Anne's BF already in their social circle, but which she won't admit in show biz?

Sam, on the other hand, is said to be seeing international pop singer Marie Digby. Change casting for the fab Anne-Sam love team?

■ ■ ■

Empress Schuck is being groomed to be ABS-CBN's next "It Girl" in the drama department via the teleserye "Rosalka." (weekdays after "Wowowee").

After bagging a slew of acting awards and citations, she is definitely ripe for her biggest break.

"Rosalka" depicts the life and travails of Rosa (Empress) who carries a hump on her back. However, there's more to what is skin-deep. As the story unfolds, the audience will find out more about the mystery surrounding her character.

Doesn't she feel pressured by her first lead role? "At first I felt that," she admits, "because I know that people will expect much from me. But as we go along, the support I get from viewers more than takes the pressure away. It inspires me to show them that I deserve the role."

Empress says that, like Rosalka, she's a happy person. "Kahit anong problema, nakatawa at smile lang ako."

But are her smiles mostly caused by Angelo Patrimonio, who's smitten by her charms? "I'm flattered that he's vocal about his admiration for me," she says, blushing. "But 'di pa ako ready magpaligaw kasi work ang priority ko now. But I think he is good BF material. Besides, close ang families namin." Empress is in full bloom like a Rosal(ka).

Maharlika – Opinyon

EDITORIAL

Comfort zone

It is something to admire—Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III's abiding conviction that he wants to lead a simple life, even while serving in the presidency. This conviction finds its chief expression in the plan of the presumptive president-elect to reside, not in Malacañang Palace, but in the bungalow (since much renovated) that he inherited from his parents. "When you go back home at the end of the day, you're just so and so, [and are reminded] that it shouldn't go to your head, and that this is what you should do."

This plan, and the attitude that gives rise to it, recalls the earliest days of his mother's own presidency, when Corazon Aquino preferred to stay in the family's residence on Times Street in Quezon City, motoring to Malacañang for the working day. (In the beginning, she even stopped at traffic lights too.) Then, as now, the contrast with the imperial conduct of the predecessor-president was invigorating.

But there is a reason why, even after 20 years under Ferdinand Marcos and nine years under Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Malacañang retains a special hold on the national imagination: It is a symbol of the nation.

Other presidents have lived there, too, and some of them (Quezon, Magsaysay, even Aguinaldo who stayed there at the turn of the 20th century as a guest under guard of the American colonial government) were political giants indeed, who laid the foundation of the nation. The fact that Spanish and American overlords once called Malacañang home too, and that in Malacañang "el inolvidable Rizal" (the unforgettable Rizal, as one revolutionary called him) parleyed with the Spaniards as an equal, only for his dear mother later to go begging in the Palace to have his execution stayed, only make Philippine possession of Malacañang more emphatic.

It will not do for the presumptive president-elect to turn his back on history.

We will not argue with the senator's impression that the Palace emits "negative vibes." Or with his poignant description of it, as well as the Arlegui House where his mother finally decided to reside during her term, as "too big. It will just emphasize being alone." Or, indeed, with his almost-plaintive defense for staying put in Times Street: "This is my spiritual and psychological well-being. I'm here in a very comfortable position. This is where I grew up; this is where I find myself very productive in terms of studying. The pacing here is really okay."

But we can think of at least three good reasons why Aquino must break out of his comfort zone.

First, the security and logistical nightmare that will descend on his neighbors in the ungated community he calls home. Violent death is not a stranger to his family; extremist groups continue to regard the country, and operate in it, as a front in the so-called terrorism wars; the Aquino house itself (and the densely inhabited neighborhood around it) is a vulnerable target. It may be possible to secure the area, in such a way as to assure the public that the duly elected president's safety is guaranteed, but at what cost? If the occasional checkpoint is an inconvenience, consider the rigor of security checks that the neighbors will suffer at least twice a day.

Second, the continuing act of sacrifice that the presidency represents. Unlike his two immediate predecessors, the next president regards his six-year term the way his mother did: as an imposition, a series of acts of self-restraint, not an excuse to do as one pleases. Add the necessity of living in Malacañang then, or at the least in Arlegui, to the list of unavoidable sacrifices.

And third, the necessity of re-possession. Aquino must reclaim Malacañang on behalf of the people; on behalf of the people, he must rid the Palace of its negative vibes.

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The elephant in the room

Commentary

By W. SCOTT THOMPSON, OLIVER GERONILLA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Back in 1979, an African soldier, Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, seized power in Ghana and got everybody's attention by executing on a public beach the three living former heads of state. Twenty years later, two "legal" terms of office, he was maneuvered into pledging constitutional elections, but nobody believed they would be free. In fact, his "men" thought they were trying to work "with an elephant in the room." Well, in fairness, Rawlings had grown very, very large. He was eventually edged out of power by domestic problems, the political skill of the old parties, and the promise Bill Clinton extracted from him as the price of an American presidential visit. But the successor attorney general didn't want to go after Rawlings' stolen billions. They were still scared of him for years afterwards.

"We'll support him; we want to see him in office." That seems to be the message that the new US Ambassador to the Philippines Harry Thomas Jr. wanted to convey when he paid a courtesy call on presumptive president-elect Benigno Aquino III, going all the way to Times Street to make his call. Other envoys have extended the same gesture, putting the presidential race at an international level of concern, and the acceptance of the results by the present leader as a necessity for working with the Philippines.

That's a post-election development. Prior to that, we were often told that embassies routinely do not interfere in other countries' internal affairs. How true is this? Well, it's always the "declaratory" policy—but not always the "action" policy. It depends on the relative power of the parties and whether they think their own affairs are affected. It can be a matter of whether one country feels that another country's choices affect issues, world interests, or very specific values which weren't apparent or obvious at the start of the race, the most important of which is the survival of the Philippines as a democratic and liberal state. It matters a surprisingly great deal these days.

We think outside powers do have real cards to play. We wish they hadn't. We wish they didn't. We wish Filipinos in any event didn't care—unless the need is real. But we are dealing with facts and new realities coming from many directions. We know that some leading Filipino political strategists think the American card may be the most important in ensuring that the winner last May 10 is installed in Malacañang on June 30. The US ambassador's meeting with Aquino has underlined how strong a signal is coming from Washington.

Everyone is traipsing to Times Street, including the EU ambassador and the representative of the Holy See. In normal times, that might just be to kiss the hand of the new Godfather. This time no one is in the slightest doubt: they were there to bless him—and more importantly send a message to Malacañang.

People of all nations like to be well regarded. Filipinos like the good opinion of the world, maybe in particular of the Americans. And Americans have opinions, and maybe ways to act, in this race—if only after the voting and, as we have seen, to make clear to Filipino leaders that there are consequences if they try to mess with the election results. Anyway, becoming overnight a banana republic with a Haitian-type "Papa Doc" leader or a Congolese Mobutu Sese Seko isn't a very pleasant prospect.

The Americans, at least, are aware—finally—that the survival of democracy is once again at issue in the Philippines. But the basic issue is that no one wants the Philippines to become a banana republic. So now there is a countdown until June 30. We know that there are serious concerns in the winning camp that the president-elect could suffer the fate of his father, and Arroyo has many other less extreme options to delay the inauguration at the last minute.

Even if Aquino is inaugurated on schedule, Arroyo will be maneuvering to return to power. Of course, she will try for a constitutional rewrite. She thinks that as a congresswoman she will carry with her the powers she held as an all-powerful president. Try again.

But it is urgent that she not become speaker so that the Philippines doesn't have to be a wall for the projection of her own fears and ambitions for yet another nine or more years. Aquino needs to have the full powers of the job and the full attention of the republic to repair, undo her damage and then get on with the proper development of the country.

The Philippines deserves no less than a clean sweep. In an ideal world, what outsiders think shouldn't matter. But the world is a very small place these days, and outside powers will be watching closely to see if GMA intends to continue to make mischief—or to support the new commander in chief. In trade, military ties and supplies, economic aid, they have big votes on Filipino affairs. They must deal with reality—and hope the new president can get the elephant out of the room from his first day in office.

Oliver Geronilla is a language instructor based in Dasmariñas City. W. Scott Thompson, D.Phil. served four presidents in the United States and is professor emeritus of international politics at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in Boston.

Recovering ancient music

Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

For the past decade, I have been hearing about the recovery of ancient church music books in various churches around the Philippines. These are called libros de coro (choir books) or cantorales. In their most primitive form, these are made from animal hide with the music and words written out by hand ink of red and black. Unlike similar books from Europe with lavishly illustrated, or should we say "illuminated" capital letters, the extant Philippine examples are simple.

Three decades ago I bought from one of Ermita's antique shops a sheet of music with ancient music notation that was labeled "Misa ni San Jose." I've always wondered where the rest of the book went and now regret the fact that I gave this framed piece of music away as a present.

Displayed in the choir loft of San Agustin church in Intramuros is another choir book on animal skin mounted on an elaborately carved hardwood stand or facistol. It is fortunate that this cantoral survived the war, rats, insects and the most dangerous creature for heritage: the antique collector. In foreign architectural magazines, I have seen pages from cantorales re-used as lampshades!

In the Philippines, wonderfully illustrated books like Fr. Manuel Blanco's "Flora de Filipinas" are butchered and the plates sold off individually to interior decorators. While these colored lithograph plates are a visual delight, especially those depicting various fruits and vegetables, they are lost as reference material. Fortunately, the San Agustin Museum reprinted, at great cost, Blanco's "Flora de Filipinas" complete with the text that most dealers discard because the obsolete botanical information is of interest to no one. A complete set of the original 19th-century "Flora de Filipinas"—colored edition printed in Barcelona or the much rarer black and white edition printed in the Philippines—will set you back about $50,000.

Three decades ago, I acquired loose Blanco prints at P100 each. I sold them at P1,000 each, which wasn't bad for a student on allowance, but now the best Blanco prints can sell for P10,000 or even P15,000.

These prices may be good for the art and antiques market, but it creates an underside of shady characters who loot Spanish period churches and convents around the country.

Last weekend, I took the ambassador of Mexico on a day trip through the colonial churches of southern Cebu hoping to get his impressions on the similarities between our colonial arts. We visited Carcar, Argao, Dalaguete and Boljoon.

The churches are quite well preserved compared to the churches of Panay which have retained their old exteriors but are completely modern inside. Cebu's churches have retained their authenticity but many of the santos in the retablos are modern, the old ones having been discarded, used as firewood, or sold to antique dealers and collectors. When the ambassador asked me where the original items from these churches are, I answered, partly in jest, that they are probably in Forbes Park and Dasmariñas Village.

I was happy to see the beautiful 18th-century hardwood benches and tables of Boljoon still there though in need of repair and conservation. I had drooled over these over a decade ago and was surprised that they are still intact. Boljoon is special because it faces the sea, and recent archeological excavations revealed gold ornaments from a grave close to the front of the church.

We were shown a makeshift museum with a cabinet containing sheet music. I immediately thought of Maria Alexandra Iñigo Chua, a professor at the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music, and imagined her fainting from ecstasy when she sees this treasure trove of what looks like late 19th-century or early 20th-century manuscript music. For the last decade, Chua has been lecturing and making people aware of 19th-century music in the Philippines based on her work with the manuscript collections in the church of Baclayon in Bohol that is supposed to be older than San Agustin church in Intramuros. Chua has brought to light the now famous "Misa Baclayana" or the choral settings for Mass that have been performed by the world-famous Loboc Children's Choir.

When I first heard of "Misa Baclayana," I was skeptical. There are recordings of 17th-century Jesuit church music from their South American Missions, and just recently the BBC "Early Music" show had an erudite, hour-long program of 17th- and 18th-century church music from Mexico. I was sure our music would pale in comparison. But hearing "Misa Baclayana" gave me a different experience. The music may be simple but it brings us back in time to the early 19th century. Of course, the music is now performed by professional musicians and surely sounds better than 19th-century Baclayanons, but then I could be wrong.

Professor Chua recently published "Kirial de Baclayon, 1826: Hispanic Sacred Music in 19thC Bohol, Philippines" (Ateneo Press, 2010). It would have been the usual academic book on an obscure topic, except that an audio CD with excerpts from "Misa Baclayana" accompanies the book and gives one a moving historical experience. One can only hope that this book will not be her last.

Comments are welcome at my Facebook Fan Page.

Maharlika – Samu't Sari

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Alfred Kevin C. Acosta and to the Mount Carmel School Class of 2010 on your graduation day on May 29, 2010! We are very proud of you, keep up the good work, son, and we love you so much! Greetings come from your loving family: Papa, Mama, and Ydylle.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to Betty Matson, who recently finished her kindergarten education! She is shown here with her mom, Marites, and dad, Bill Matson.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FMI CLEANUP PROJECT

Members of the Friends of the Mariana Islands conduct the first stage of the Lau-Lau Environmental Project (three Sundays) in May 2010. Funded by Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc., almost 20 volunteers (including as young as 4 years old and others at 55) worked on this first stage of the cleanup that took almost four hours to complete. Both trash removal and cleanup along the sides of road from Isla Road down toward the beach took place. There is another cleanup planned and everyone is invited to attend. The date will be June 15, 2010. It will start at 8am and last up to 11am. You can find us at the intersection of Isla and Lau Lau roads.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

P&G PROMO WINNERS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Winners of Dickerson & Quinn's Procter and Gamble promotion pose after claiming their prizes at Twins Supermarket. Yao Wei Ma, right, won an Acer Aspire One laptop, while Juanito Rivera, Amelia Villacrusis, and Mark Rabago won $125 shopping spree gift certificates redeemable at Twins courtesy of D&Q. Posing with the group is Twins owner, Lan Lan Wang, middle.

MEMORIAL DAY

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Members of the Tristep Melody entertain the crowd with their modern dance during the Memorial Day gathering on Monday of long-term nonresident workers and those having Immediate Relative status at the American Memorial Park.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Park Ranger Nancy Kelchner delivers an inspirational speech about Memorial Day during a gathering organized by the United Workers Movement-NMI at the American Memorial Park's Amphitheater on Monday.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Dr. John Griffin of the Northern Marianas College serves as one of the guest speakers during a Memorial Day gathering organized by a group of long-term nonresident workers at the American Memorial Park. Griffin states that people should understand that American citizenship is something that only America can give and only Washington has the right to give.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to Theresa Marie Attao Toves who celebrated her 8th birthday on June 5! Warm greetings come from your parents Mark and Catherine; your siblings Joseph, Markel, Merrick and Markus; and the rest of your Chalan Piao family! We wish you the best on your special day!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Jode T. Reyes who is celebrating his 9th birthday today! We love you and we hope you will enjoy your special day! Greetings coming from your families and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

YoungStyle

48 advance to semifinals of National Spelling Bee

By JOSEPH WHITE
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

AP

Matthew Zisi, 13, of Fredericskburg, Va., celebrates on spelling his word correctly in the third round of the 2010 Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, on Thursday, June 3, 2010.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Neetu Chandak had trouble catching her breath after learning Thursday she had made the next round of the Scripps National Spelling Bee. To burn off some of the energy, she starting playing peek-a-boo with her 6-month-old cousin.

"My heart's, like, beating," she said, fanning her face with both hands. "I'm not sure if anybody can hear me. I'm thinking, 'What if I don't make it?'"

The 14-year-old from Seneca Falls, N.Y., in the green blouse with glittering butterflies had no reason to worry. She tackled both of her words with ease and became one of 48 spellers to advance to the semifinals.

The semifinalists are all that remain from the 273 competitors from across the U.S. and around the world who gathered for the three-day competition. The champion, who wins an enormous trophy and more than $40,000 in cash and prizes, will be crowned Friday night in prime-time on national television.

Each of the spellers—ranging in age from 8 to 15—got to spell two words onstage under the bright lights of the Grand Hyatt ballroom. The results were combined with a written test taken Wednesday to determine the semifinalists.

Neetu, an aspiring architect and interior designer, is perhaps the biggest celebrity among this year's spellers. She's made the nationals for the fourth time—more than anyone else in the field—and tied for eighth in 2009. She smiled her way through "facetious" and didn't hesitate as she worked her way through "hemerocallis"—another word for a day lily. She was trading hugs and high-fives with her fellow semifinalists after the results were announced.

Another returning finalist, 14-year-old Anamika Veeramani, of North Royalton, Ohio, was just as steady. Anamika, who tied for fifth in her debut last year, kept both hands behind her back as she rattled off "exacerbate" and "foggara."

Anamika said she was excited to know her friends back home will be able to watch her on ESPN Friday morning in school.

"I'm more relaxed now," Anamika said. "The studying part is pretty much done."

Neetu and Anamika are both hoping to become the third straight Indian-American to win the bee, and the eighth in the last 12 years.

"That's a little too far right now. Take one step at a time," said Neetu's father, Mahesh. "We're just so excited that she made it to the semifinals."

The other finalist returning from last year, 13-year-old Tim Ruiter, of Centreville, Va., fiddled with the homemade bracelet given to him by his sister as he correctly spelled "canape" and "paparazzo."

As always, the bee gave the nation a chance to see a full spectrum of bright kids with varying accents, senses of fashion and spelling styles that ranged from serious to somber to lively and even humorous. The speller from China, 13-year-old Jacky Qiao, grabbed a firm hold of the microphone with his right hand and intensely spelled "recidivist"—then celebrated with a huge wave of both arms as he headed back to his seat. However, he failed to qualify for the semifinals.

"The kids are just fun to watch," bee pronouncer Jacques Bailly said. "Some are 13 and short. Some are 13 and tall. Some are 13 looking like 20. Some are 13 and look like 8."

Darren Sackey made sure everyone knew he had come a long way to take part in the bee - he wore a bright yellow shirt with the word "GHANA" across the front. The 13-year-old from the capital Accra, used the tried and true method of tracing the word on the back of his placard before correctly spelling "camandante," but he also failed to advance.

For the second straight year, Bailly helped lighten the mood with his laugh-out-loud sentences. When 10-year-old Margaret Peterson from Granger, Ind., wanted to know more about the word "raita"—a type of Indian salad—Bailly responded: "Asking Preston to be patient was like ordering raita at a Taco Bell."

The youngest speller—8-year-old Vanya Shivashankar of Olathe, Kan.—looked right at home. She was on the same stage a year ago, helping her sister and Kavya celebrate victory as the 2009 champion.

Vanya, barely 4 feet tall and wearing a gray-and-white striped hoodie, greeted Bailly confidently with her hands on her hips. She then mimicked her sister's spelling style—tracing the word on her palm—and correctly spelled "euthanasia." She had no problem with "ocelot" in the next round but failed to qualify for the semifinals because of her lower score on the written test.

Earning a place in spelling lore is 13-year-old semifinalist Sonia Schlesinger, who is believed to be the first person to represent two countries at the bee. Sonia was living in Washington, D.C., last year, but her family moved to Tokyo in January. One of the first things she did was to check to see if Japan sent a speller to the bee.

"I really wanted to do this again," she said.

AP

Vothom Son Lu, 11, of Camden, N.J., listens to fellow competitors while on stage at the 2010 Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, on Thursday, June 3, 2010.

Spelling champ's little sis, 8, is youngest at bee

By JOSEPH WHITE
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

McLEAN, Va. (AP)—The youngest competitor at this year's Scripps National Spelling Bee was having a ball, making new friends and waiting her turn to sing a Hannah Montana song in karaoke.

Eight-year-old Vanya Shivashankar of Olathe, Kan., looked half the size of the some of the kids surrounding her Tuesday at the annual spellers' picnic. The third-grader also happens to be the sister of last year's winner.

So what does she think of her chances of winning?

"It's a big shot," she said.

"Long shot," her father, Mirle, gently corrected.

"Yes," Vanya said brightly, "a long shot."

Maybe so, but her pedigree suggests she'll be a legitimate contender in a few years. Spelling, it seems, is very much a family affair. There will be quite a few familiar last names when the three-day competition begins Wednesday, culminating with the finals Friday night.

Take the Evans family from Albuquerque. They've been representing New Mexico for seven consecutive years: five with Matthew and two with Hannah. The dynasty will finally come to an end this year because this is 14-year-old Hannah's last year of eligibility—and they have no younger siblings.

"Everybody sees us, saying we need to adopt," Helen Evans said. "And that the only criteria for adoption be, 'Do you like to spell?'"

Also following in family footsteps is Deborah Horton of Gainesville, Va., who is back for her second and final year after watching brother Jonathan compete for three years. Like Vanya and Hannah, Deborah says she doubts she would have given the bee a try if the older sibling hadn't paved the way.

AP

Vanya Shivashankar, 8, of Olahthe, Kan., competes at the 2010 Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, on Thursday, June 3, 2010. She successfully spelled the word "euthanasia."

"He inspired me to be here," Deborah said.

Twenty of the 273 spellers in Washington, D.C., this week have had at least one relative who took part in a previous national bee. The most noticeable pair at Tuesday's picnic were the Shivashankars - lots of spellers wanted to get an autograph from reigning champion Kavya and ask her for advice, and no one could believe how small Vanya is.

"She's the baby," her mother, Sandy, said with a laugh.

Kavya has enjoyed her year of celebrity as bee champion, traveling and doing interviews. She's moved on to other types of competitions and still wants to be a neurosurgeon, but her little sister has helped her return to a familiar pastime.

"I work with her a bit," Kavya said. "It's nice to get back into it because I really miss spelling."

Still, everyone in the family was a bit surprised when Vanya won her regional bee to qualify for the finals at such an early age. She even traces the words on her hand before spelling them, just as Kavya did, although she wants to be heart surgeon instead of a neurosurgeon.

"She was such a good listener at what Kavya was doing," Sandy Shivashankar said. "Vanya has so much energy."

Matthew Evans was a perennial contender who never won the championship; his best finish was sixth in 2007. He now competes in the National Bible Bee, but he's helped sister Hannah by recording some 50,000 words for her to listen to and spell.

Hannah didn't make it past the preliminaries last year, and her goal this year is to simply make it to the semifinals, televised by ESPN.

"I'm obviously not as good as he was," Hannah said, "but it's fun to just do the spelling anyway."

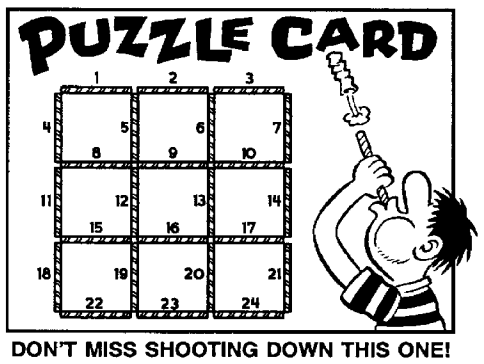
Tuesday's picnic offered the spellers a last chance to relax and frolic before the competition gets tense and serious. A sign of the event's growing popularity: A television crew from South Korea was following 14-year-old Hyunsoo Kim, who goes to an English school in Seoul and is representing her country at the bee.

The highlight came when Matthew, Jonathan and two other former spellers who never won the championship took the karaoke microphones and parodied "We Are the Champions."

"We are the Has-Beens, my friend," they sang. "And we'll keep on spelling 'til the end. No time for winners—because we never won the bee."

But they can always root for their little sisters.

PUZZLE CARD



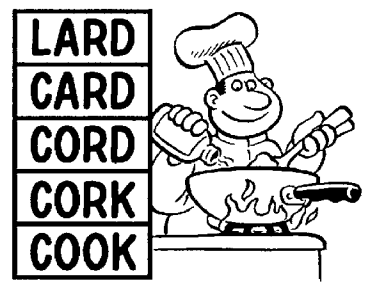
DON'T MISS SHOOTING DOWN THIS ONE!
See if you can remove 8 straws from the 24 shown here and have two squares left.

Answer: If you remove straws 5, 6, 8, 10, 15, 17, 19 and 20, you'll be left with one large square and one small square.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

A FIVE-COURSE PUZZLE FEAST!

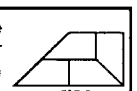


Can you cook up the answers to our Ladder Puzzles in five minutes? In these puzzles, you are given a word that must be changed into another word in a series of moves. During each move, you must change one letter in the previous word so as to form a new word. See if you can change the following words in four moves each.

1. FIRE to WALL
2. PEAT to MOSS
3. POLE to CATS
4. CARD to FILE
5. TOAD to HALL

Answers:
1. FIRE, WIRE, WARE, WALE, WALL.
2. PEAT, MEAT, MOAT, MOST, MOSS.
3. POLE, PALE, PATE, PATS, CATS.
4. CARD, CARE, FARE, FIRE, FILE.
5. TOAD, TOLD, TOLL, TALL, HALL.

A BETCHA PUZZLE! Place an odd-shaped piece of paper (fig 1) on the table and challenge your friends to cut it into four equal pieces, all the same size and shape. The solution is shown in figure 2.



IT'S MAGIC! Use the numbers 7 through 16 to fill in this Magic Number Square. The numbers in each horizontal row and vertical column should total 60. We've filled in six of the squares. The rest is up to you. Use trial and error — and a good eraser!

	17	22	
21			18
	24		
			23

[60]

Our answer: First row: 14, 17, 22, 7. Second row: 21, 8, 13, 18. Third row: 9, 24, 15, 12. Fourth row: 16, 11, 10, 23.

Illustrated by David Coulson

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Hot cars are death trap for pets

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I was walking through the parking lot toward the supermarket today when I noticed a little dog barking inside a car that had all its windows shut. Even though the breeze was cool, the sun was still hot and I knew that dog had to be suffering. I ran inside the store and asked the customer service person to announce across the store asking the dog's owner to please go back to their car. I saw that the owner did run right out and take care of her dog. Can you please remind people that with summer almost here, not to leave their pets inside a hot car, even for a few minutes?—Sherry in Cleveland

DEAR SHERRY: Thanks for reminding my readers, and for doing a great job being proactive about that dog. If the owner hadn't responded, the next step would have been to contact emergency services—fire or police—to come and rescue the dog, before temperatures inside the car became too much for the pet to handle.

In fact, a closed car, even on a mild day, can become life-threateningly hot, especially for dogs. United Animal Nations, an animal protection organization (www.uan.org), cited a San Francisco State University study that showed on an 80-degree F day, the temperature inside a closed car rose to 99 degrees in just 10 minutes. A dog can suffer a heat injury in an air temperature of 90 degrees.

The organization also noted that just cracking the windows doesn't help. So don't leave your pet unattended in the car, not even for a few minutes. You can learn even more at www.mydogiscool.com.

■ ■ ■

Send your pet questions and tips to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Find more pet advice and resources at www.pawscorner.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was multi-talented Sir Francis Bacon—he was a statesman, lawyer, scientist, philosopher and author—who made the following sage observation: "If a man will begin with certainties, he shall end in doubts; but if he will be content to begin with doubts, he shall end in certainties."

■ One of the most highly praised actresses of our time, Meryl Streep, holds the record for Academy Award nominations; she's been awarded the Oscar twice, but has been nominated an impressive 16 times.

■ The highest known life insurance payout occurred in 1970, when the widow of a cattle rancher was awarded $18 million in benefits.

■ Those who study such things say that Italians drink, on average, 26 gallons of wine every year.

■ It's just common sense that people tend to behave better when they're being watched, but it may come as a surprise that it doesn't seem to matter whether or not the watcher is real. Researchers made this discovery in an experiment conducted at the University of Newcastle in Australia. In a coffee lounge where paying for the beverage was optional, a picture of a pair of eyes was placed next to the price list at some times, and at other times a picture of flowers accompanied the list. On days when the eyes were posted, more than three times as much money was donated than on days when the flowers were in the same spot.

■ People magazine reportedly paid $6 million for photos of Jennifer Lopez's twin babies, Emme and Max.

■ Between 1960 and 2006, the average American's production of solid waste—including everything from paper packaging to lawn clippings—increased by 150 percent to 4.5 pounds every day.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "People of small caliber like to sit on high horses."—Magdalena Samozwaniec

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MAGIC MAZE ● OCCUPATIONS WITH A PATRON SAINT

Q	V	T	Q	O	L	I	G	D	B	Y	W	T	R	P
A	M	G	K	I	F	D	S	R	E	L	U	R	T	B
C	Y	W	U	U	S	R	E	L	L	I	M	S	S	Q
T	O	M	K	N	E	I	F	D	B	S	I	R	S	Z
O	X	W	U	B	N	S	A	Q	E	G	O	E	T	N
R	B	G	R	A	V	E	D	I	G	G	E	R	S	L
S	K	A	T	E	R	S	R	U	R	C	J	U	I	H
F	B	D	K	C	T	A	R	S	O	C	A	T	T	Y
W	V	T	S	E	T	D	Q	O	P	N	R	C	R	L
K	I	H	O	O	R	F	K	E	C	B	Z	E	A	Y
W	V	P	N	U	S	S	R	E	I	K	S	L	W	R

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Aircrew	Cooks	Lecturers	Rulers
Artists	Druggist	Millers	Skaters
Bakers	Gravediggers	Notaries	Skiers
Barbers	Gunners	Poets	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	÷		+		15
+		x		–	
	÷		x		15
÷		+		x	
	+		+		13
4		9		9	

1 3 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

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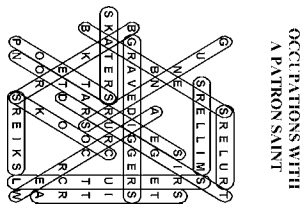
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

4	+	9	÷	3	15
÷	+	1	x	5	15
+	8	–	6	+	13
4	x	3	+	9	15
7	÷	6	+	2	15

Send your love to kids at camp

If you are sending your child to summer camp for the first time, you may be experiencing the conflicting emotions reminiscent of that day years ago when the same child boarded the yellow school bus for kindergarten. It's another one of those "letting go" milestones that catches parents off guard.

While checking off your lists and helping your child pack his duffel bag with the standard camp fare of T-shirts, underwear, swimsuit, pj's, jeans, sneakers, bug spray, a camera, flashlight and extra socks, you may find yourself jolted. "Wait a minute! Is this child really ready for a seven-day, six-night camp experience in the wild?"

Or, perhaps more accurately, are you ready?

That's the moment you'll want to tuck in some addressed envelopes or postcards, stamps and a pen in a little bag hoping he will send back his version of time away.

Even more, it's the campers who love to receive mail and thoughts from home.

Here are some tips for keeping in touch:

■ Write and send a note or two to your child's camp two days before he leaves home. Your child will be ecstatic when he hears his name at mail call the first day of camp.

■ -If you child is a baseball fan, remember to send clippings of box scores of games they are missing.

■ Maybe your child is celebrating a birthday while away. Surprise her with extra fun mini gifts packaged in a plastic bottle! Fill a large, wide-mouthed water bottle with a screw on cap with clever items your child will enjoy: balloons, stickers, mini flashlight, beads, string, rubber balls, lip gloss, rubber spiders and critters to tuck under unsuspecting friends' and counselors' pillows!

For a personal touch, find a photo from a previous birthday and cut it into puzzle shapes for your child to put together.

Tape the lid with packing tape after you have screwed it on tightly to ensure that it stays closed. Label it clearly, have it weighed by your postal clerk for correct postage and send it off.

Extra "greetings in a bottle" ideas:

■ Celebrate the birth of a new baby by sending a sturdy plastic baby bottle filled with a card and small items such as a small fork and spoon, bib and pacifier.

■ Throwing a backyard party or planning a family reunion? Send a lightweight recycled plastic water bottle filled with confetti and the invitation.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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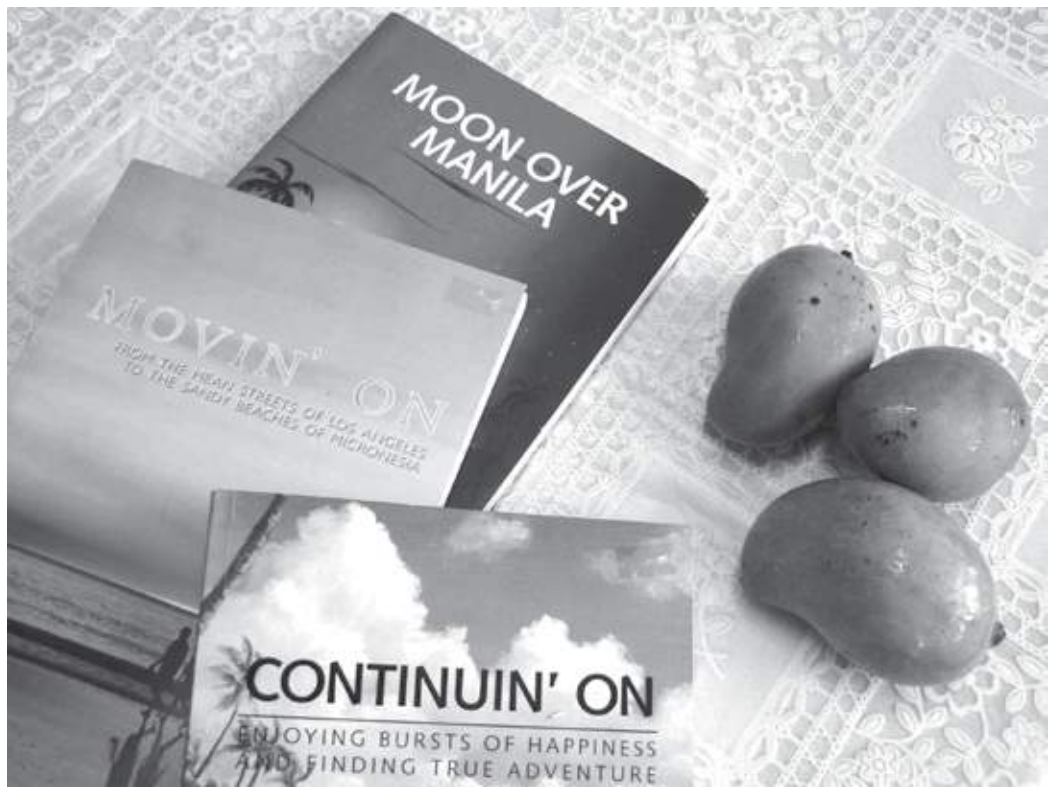
Life & Style


MOON OVER MANILA
MOVIN' ON
FROM THE FRAY STREETS OF LOS ANGELES TO THE SANDY BEACHES OF MICRONESIA
CONTINUIN' ON
ENJOYING BURSTS OF HAPPINESS AND FINDING TRUE ADVENTURE

Continuin' on Movin' on

By JAIME R VERGARA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

It is the sweet scent of rotting mangoes that permeates my neighbor's yard as our June days continue to stay dry, and the mango fruits ripen on the tree to be attacked first by the Mediterranean fly that pierces through the yellowing skin and causes the fruit to be partially rotten by the time it falls on the ground. Then it is the off-islander's turn to pick off the fruit with a long stick (bamboo poles do the job well), or pick them up from the ground in the early morn, since the natives do not bother with them, or, when at they are at all knowledgeable or conscientious, rake them over to the trunk to retain and recycle nutrients in the soil.

Depending on the variety, some growers cover their fruits with either newsprint that protects them from pests and still allow them to "breath," or just enclose the whole thing with transparent plastic that traps the fruit's own humidity but still allows the sun's heat to hasten the ripening process. A friend swears by his mother's name that if one places a ripening mango into a brown bag along with a ripe and shriveling apple, the mango will taste heavenly good! Otherwise, it is just feast time for flies, birds, and off-islanders!

Our favored Joe "Saipan Mango" Race cultivates books; seems like he grows them in his backyard. Influenced by a mother who encouraged our writer to read anything he got his hands on, it appears that his reading list was eclectic, ranging from Epictetus to Nikos Kazantsakis, Xenophon to Mark Twain, and many points in between.

We caught up with Joe Race, or, should I say, Tom Parker caught us up to Saipan's shenanigans over the holidays? We last reflected on Joe Race's moon face over Manila, tying it to our reflections on the Philippine elections and Malacañang's future. The long Memorial weekend afforded us the chance to look into Race's outputs in between the *Paniolo* and the archaeologist's *Pinay,* and caught us up to retired cop Parker's adventures in our paradise isle.

We first encountered Race in his story of a Hawaiian *Paniolo* that hinged on the dramatic confluence of biography, history and geography, from the end of the American Civil War between the Blue and the Gray, to the shooting of the buffaloes and Custer in the Plains, on to the ousting of the Aloha monarchy. We traveled across Appalachia to the TexMex Southwest toward the West Coast of California, to Shanghai and finally, the Rainbow isles of the hula where 'one can get lei'd without getting Maui'd'. (The last phrase comes from a bumper sticker we wanted to produce but didn't while residing in Hawaii!)

Our write-up title is not chronological of the books we perused *('Movin On'* came first before *'Continuin On'* though both are copyrighted 2007); but it reads better for us when the 'moving continues on'. In any case, last week's news of an abducted 15-year old girl raped and left unconscious on Chalan Kanoa made the vignettes of PI Tom Parker and his Chamorro warrior Carlos Montano not just afternoon entertainment while lounging on a hammock under the shades, but are relevant to contemporary events. They mirror real morsels of life on Saipan and the Micronesian islands. Race draws characters who are recognizable. The Bali bombing for instance that felled Aussies from Down Under is familiar, and if the facts of events are not detailed, they are nevertheless true.

Our Saipan Mango applies deft but light literary touch to dealing with island politics and their police departments, rife with nepotism and corruption only too awkwardly familiar. We just sent off last year a sibling duo, and an in-law, caught in a dastardly act of blatant opportunism and greed in Rydlymegate.

Movin' On moves cop Tom Parker to Saipan after hitting the jackpot on a one-arm bandit in Vegas, resigns his position with L.A.'s finest (he keeps the uniform as a reminder to stay in shape) and invests a portion of his wealth in an island hotel milked to the ground by the previous owner, resuscitates it into a viable operation, upgrading the lives of those in his employ in the process, and earning a profit beside. He opens a private eye agency that keeps him busy in his familiar field of law enforcement, and engages the services of a level headed lawyer and a former AG investigator. Follows *Continuin On,* exactly as the title says.

I spent half of my first summer in '66 as a working student in the United States at *The Luau,* a restaurant on Rodeo Drive abut the Beverley Hills Hotel before Christian Dior, Armani, and the boutique ilk took over the area. The restaurant coordinated the *Kon Tiki* of the Sheraton Hotels at the time. I learned how to keep books, bus boy and wait on tables that summer. I also commuted daily to a bunk bed in a Chinese-owned refurbished garage in Watts, corner S. Figueroa and 136th a year after the riots, and Black became Beautiful. Closing the restaurant at midnight and recording the take at 8am, connecting buses through Central L.A. both ways, was a lot of time on the bus. I was educated on American metropolitan culture without the standard Urban Sociology class.

I mention this because Joe Race's geographical scope of familiarity (save Kosovo and Bosnia) are places where I've lived, from the D.C. suburb of Virginia outside the beltway to the foothills of Appalachia, the Prairies and the Southwest, and the coastal Pacific out west. Ermita, Davao, Mactan, Bicol, and even Siquijor and Negros of Race's current interest are old stumping grounds. My Micronesian addresses had been Majuro, Agaña, and Saipan, and I am no stranger to Kosrae, Pohnpei, Chuuk and Belau, though I am still waiting for the Navy ship to take me to the innocence of Yap's outer islands! Race's four books I've read so far are set in familiar places, even old Shanghai!

SoCal culture is mirrored in Race's books. It is flamboyant, accommodating, peppy. Familiar at times with Magnolia Ave., Redlands toward Palm Springs, Claremont by Pomona, and San Bernardino, the relaxed ambience of Race's novels reflects the virtues of L.A.'s diversity and tolerance, a polyglot of a Machiavellian neighborhood, the City of the Angels serving pupus before donning tutus. With a broad charity of spirit, and an existential sense of the profound 'just thereness and is-ness of the here-and-now', Race's novels not only entertains but invites continuin' reflection. Movin' on! Keep Race on your summer reading list.

Rue McClanahan, 'Golden Girl' Blanche, dies in NY

NEW YORK (AP)—Rue McClanahan, the Emmy-winning actress who brought the sexually liberated Southern belle Blanche Devereaux to life on the hit TV series "The Golden Girls," has died. She was 76.

Her manager, Barbara Lawrence, said McClanahan died Thursday morning at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital of a brain hemorrhage.

She had undergone treatment for breast cancer in 1997 and later lectured to cancer support groups on "aging gracefully." In 2009, she had heart bypass surgery.

McClanahan had an active career in off-Broadway and regional stages in the 1960s before she was tapped for TV in the 1970s for the key best-friend character on the hit series "Maude," starring Beatrice Arthur. After that series ended in 1978, McClanahan landed the role as Aunt Fran on "Mama's Family" in 1983.

But her most loved role came in 1985 when she co-starred with Arthur, Betty White and Estelle Getty in "The Golden Girls," a runaway hit that broke the sitcom mold by focusing on the foibles of four aging—and frequently eccentric—women living together in Miami.

"Golden Girls" aimed to show "that when people mature, they add layers," she told The New York Times in 1985. "They don't turn into other creatures. The truth is we all still have our child, our adolescent, and your young woman living in us."

Blanche, who called her father "Big Daddy," was a frequent target of roommates Dorothy, Rose and the outspoken Sophia (Getty), who would fire off zingers at Blanche such as, "Your life's an open blouse."

Fellow "Golden Girl" Betty White called McClanahan a close and dear friend.

"I treasured our relationship," said White, who was working in Los Angeles on the set of her TV Land comedy "Hot in Cleveland" on Thursday. "It hurts more than I even thought it would, if that's even possible."

McClanahan snagged an Emmy for her work on the show in 1987. In an Associated Press interview that year, McClanahan said Blanche was unlike any other role she had ever played.

AP

In this June 8, 2008 file photo, from left, Bea Arthur, Rue McClanahan, center, and Betty White of the Golden Girls, arrive at the TV Land Awards in Santa Monica, Calif.

"Probably the closest I've ever done was Blanche DuBois in 'A Streetcar Named Desire' at the Pasadena Playhouse," she said. "I think, too, that's where the name came from, although my character is not a drinker and not crazy."

Her Blanche Devereaux, she said, "is in love with life and she loves men. I think she has an attitude toward women that's competitive. She is friends with Dorothy and Rose, but if she has enough provocation she becomes competitive with them. I think basically she's insecure. It's the other side of the Don Juan syndrome."

The We TV cable network said it would honor McClanahan with a marathon of "Golden Girls" episodes featuring Blanche on Friday night. The Logo network said it would replay all episodes of "Sordid Lives," her last TV series, on Sunday.

Vicki Lawrence worked with McClanahan on "Mama's Family." Lawrence called her "a consummate professional, an actor's actor."

"It was my good fortune to get to work with her on the first season and a half of 'Mama's Family.' When she got stolen away from 'Mama's Family' to do 'Golden Girls,' I cried," Lawrence said in an e-mail.

After "The Golden Girls" was canceled in 1992, McClanahan, White and Getty reprised their roles in a short-lived spinoff, "Golden Palace."

McClanahan continued working in television, on stage and in film, appearing in the Jack Lemmon-Walter Matthau vehicle "Out to Sea" and as the biology teacher in "Starship Troopers."

She stepped in to portray Madame Morrible, the crafty headmistress, for a time in "Wicked," Broadway's long-running "Wizard of Oz" prequel.

AP

In this June 26, 2009 file photo, Miss Ellie celebrates her win in the "World's Ugliest Dog Contest" at the Sonoma-Marin Fair, in Petaluma, Calif.

Former 'World's Ugliest Dog' Miss Ellie dies at 17

PIGEON FORGE, Tenn. (AP)—Miss Ellie, a small, bug-eyed Chinese Crested Hairless dog whose pimples and lolling tongue helped her win Animal Planet's "World's Ugliest Dog" contest in 2009, has died at age 17 after a career in resort show business in the Smoky Mountains.

The Mountain Press reported Thursday that Ellie starred in shows at the Comedy Barn in Pigeon Forge.

She also appeared on The Animal Planet cable show "Dogs 101" and was on billboards and in a commercial.

Pigeon Forge Mayor Keith Whaley proclaimed Nov. 12 as "Miss Ellie Day" for her owner's efforts to raise money for the local humane society. Over the years, Ellie helped raise more than $100,000 for the Sevier County Humane Society.

She will be cremated.

Comedy Central chided for proposed Jesus cartoon

NEW YORK (AP)—A coalition of religious and conservative leaders is trying to stop a proposed Comedy Central cartoon that puts Jesus Christ in a modern-day context—before it even gets started.

The newly formed Citizens Against Religious Bigotry said Thursday that it believes the "JC" series would be offensive. They accuse Comedy Central of a double standard in mocking Christian figures and beliefs while recently refusing to let "South Park" depict the Prophet Muhammad for fear of offending Muslims.

"You don't have to be a Christian to be offended by this," said Brent Bozell, head of the watchdog Media Research Center.

Comedy Central said last month that "JC" is one of two dozen series it has in development. The concept is to depict Christ as a "regular guy" who moves to New York to "escape his father's enormous shadow."

Network spokesman Tony Fox noted that "JC" is nothing more than an idea now, without even a completed script. In television, only a minority of projects in development ever make it on the air.

Fox said the groups should save their energy for when a decision is made about whether the series will ever be completed.

Aside from Bozell's group, the coalition also includes the Catholic League, the Parents Television Council and talk show host Michael Medved. They said the coalition had written to 250 Comedy Central advertisers to alert them to the show and already had 93,000 petition signals against it.

Comedy Central was the target of an Internet threat this spring from a Muslim group for a "South Park" episode that supposedly showed Muhammad in a bear costume. Like other media organizations, it resists showing a depiction of Muhammad because many Muslims consider a physical description of the prophet to be blasphemous.

Such depictions of Muhammad in other media have resulted in death threats by fundamentalist Muslims against the purveyors.

"Does that indicate that Christians then are punished because they aren't crazy?" Medved asked, "that they get punished because their religion does not encourage threats of violence?"

Carradine's widow files wrongful death suit in LA

LOS ANGELES (AP)—David Carradine's widow filed a wrongful death lawsuit Thursday against a French company handling the actor's last film, claiming it failed to provide proper services to protect him.

Carradine

The lawsuit is against MS2 S.A., a French company responsible for the production of the movie "Stretch."

The lawsuit claims the company promised to provide Carradine the best possible amenities and an assistant to help him navigate Bangkok but left him behind for dinner on the night before the actor was found dead.

"Defendants were negligent in failing to follow industry standard and provide David Carradine, the performer, with sufficient assistant during the course of filming Stretch in Bangkok, Thailand," the lawsuit states.

Carradine, star of the popular "Kung Fu" television series and films such as "Kill Bill," had been in the city only three days. The lawsuit also claims Carradine's widow, Anne, has run into difficulties collecting on an insurance policy that MS2 was required to have for the actor.

Carradine, 72, was found hanging naked last June in a suite at a luxury Bangkok hotel. The lawsuit does not offer any additional details about Carradine's death. Thai authorities have never released the results of their investigation.

The lawsuit claims Carradine's assistant and other film staffers left the actor behind for dinner after failing to reach him in his hotel room. He called the assistant an hour later but was told the group was across town and he would have to make his own arrangements that evening.

Attempts to reach an MS2 representative by phone after hours were unsuccessful. According to the film database IMDB.com, production on "Stretch" was halted earlier this year. The site lists nearly 100 film credits for MS2, dating back to the late 1960s.

The lawsuit does not specify how much Anne Carradine is seeking.

Roberts' 'Eat Pray Love' gets gentler PG-13 rating

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Julia Roberts' new film has gained a wider potential audience now that the rating has been lowered from R to PG-13.

The filmmakers behind Roberts' upcoming drama "Eat Pray Love" got the R rating overturned by the Classification and Rating Appeals Board for the Motion Picture Association of America.

The Sony Pictures release had been rated R for "brief strong language." It now has a PG-13 tag for "brief strong language, some sexual references and male rear nudity." The film comes out Aug. 13.

An R rating prohibits those under 17 from seeing a movie unless accompanied by an adult.

The appeals board lowered the rating Wednesday after hearing arguments from the film's director, Ryan Murphy, and producer Dede Gardner.

Tenn. may honor Isaac Hayes with section of I-40

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Legendary late soul musician Isaac Hayes may get a commemorative stretch of highway in his home state of Tennessee.

A measure to designate a section of Interstate 40 the "Isaac Hayes Memorial Highway" passed the state Senate unanimously Thursday. The House approved it without opposition in April.

The commemorative stretch would be near Memphis, where Hayes had a home until he died of a stroke in 2008 at the age of 65. He was raised in Tipton County, north of Memphis.

The bill now goes to Gov. Phil Bredesen, who is not expected to oppose it.

The deep-voiced singer won Academy and Grammy awards for his "Theme From Shaft." He was elected to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2002. He also acted in movies and provided the voice of Chef on the animated TV show "South Park."

Girl thinks school project will lack the write stuff

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I'm working on a school project with several other girls, but I have an issue with one of them. "Sara" wanted to write the paper for our project, which is a huge part of our grade. Once she started writing it, we all realized she wasn't very good at it. I felt I could do a better job, and asked if I could do it instead—or help critique and edit it. Sara refuses.

I don't want to start a fight or anything, but this is a large part of my grade, and the project is being entered in a contest that I really want to win. Is there a way I can get her to let me help, or should I just let it go?

REALLY WANTS TO WIN IN OHIO

DEAR REALLY WANTS TO WIN: I'm sure your desire to win the contest is no less strong than that of your teammates. Who submits the paper should be a decision that the majority of you agree on. Discuss your concerns with them and take a vote.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I recently had dinner with two other couples. As soon as the meal was finished, the woman on my left turned her back to me and leaned forward so I could neither see nor converse with the person sitting to her left. She remained like that for the duration of the dinner party.

Our friends say she wasn't angry or upset with me. She has done the same thing in other group gatherings, always with the same friend over whom she "hovers." She will whisper to this friend and exclude everyone else.

I honestly don't think she is aware of how rude she is being. Any idea how I might approach her without hurting her feelings?

BLOCKED AT THE PARTY

DEAR BLOCKED: The next time it happens, speak up and say, "Excuse me, but I'm isolated over here! Would you mind if I change places with your friend, so I can participate in a conversation while you two talk?" And in the future, because this happens regularly, their preference for talking only to each other should be taken into consideration when the seating is arranged.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am a 27-year-old woman. Three weeks ago, I found out that my boyfriend of five months, "Louie," and I are going to have a baby. This was not planned, and not a happy revelation.

Louie and I are beginning to cope, and friends are really helping. My parents, however, are not. They are pushing me to marry Louie before the baby comes. I explained that I don't want that stigma and that I would like to have a big wedding later, perhaps in 2012.

My parents disagree and want nothing to do with a big wedding down the road since I won't marry Louie now. This will be their first grandchild, and they are ruining the experience by stressing me out. By the way, because of financial hardship, I currently live at home with them. What should I do?

MAMA-TO-BE IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR MAMA-TO-BE: At 27 you are an adult, and presumably able to make important decisions for yourself. Do not allow yourself to be rushed into a loveless marriage that could lead to more children and a subsequent divorce. If you and Louie are still together in 2012, you can have the wedding of your dreams then. But please be aware that your parents are under no obligation to pay for it.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

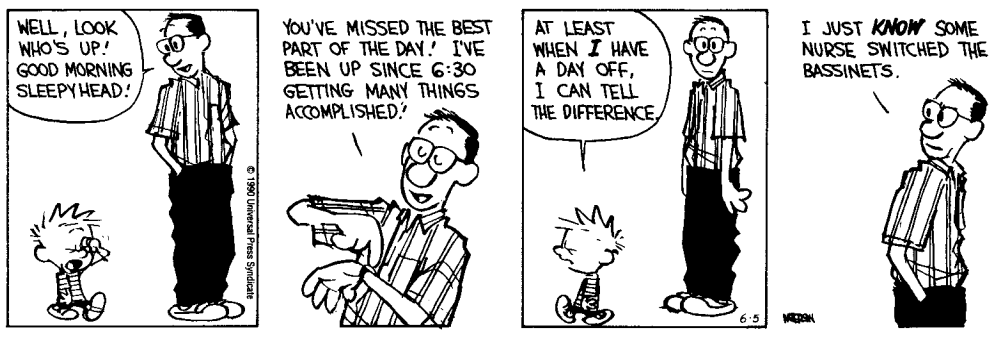
■■■

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WELL, LOOK WHO'S UP! GOOD MORNING SLEEPYHEAD!
© 1990 Universal Press Syndicate
YOU'VE MISSED THE BEST PART OF THE DAY! I'VE BEEN UP SINCE 6:30 GETTING MANY THINGS ACCOMPLISHED!
AT LEAST WHEN I HAVE A DAY OFF, I CAN TELL THE DIFFERENCE.
6-5
I JUST KNOW SOME NURSE SWITCHED THE BASSINETS.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

WELL?
JIM DAVIS 6-5
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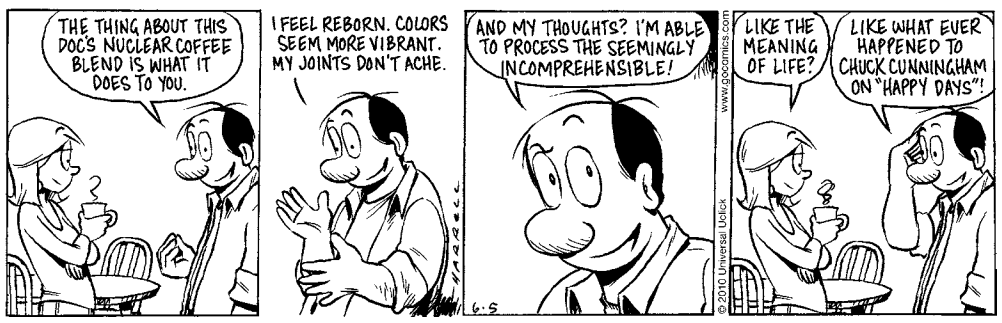
JON, I BELIEVE YOUR COFFEE HAS CROSSED THAT FINE LINE FROM FRESHLY BREWED...
Distributed by Universal Uclick
TO ROOFING TAR

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


THE THING ABOUT THIS DOC'S NUCLEAR COFFEE BLEND IS WHAT IT DOES TO YOU.
I FEEL REBORN. COLORS SEEM MORE VIBRANT. MY JOINTS DON'T ACHE.
AND MY THOUGHTS? I'M ABLE TO PROCESS THE SEEMINGLY INCOMPREHENSIBLE!
6-5
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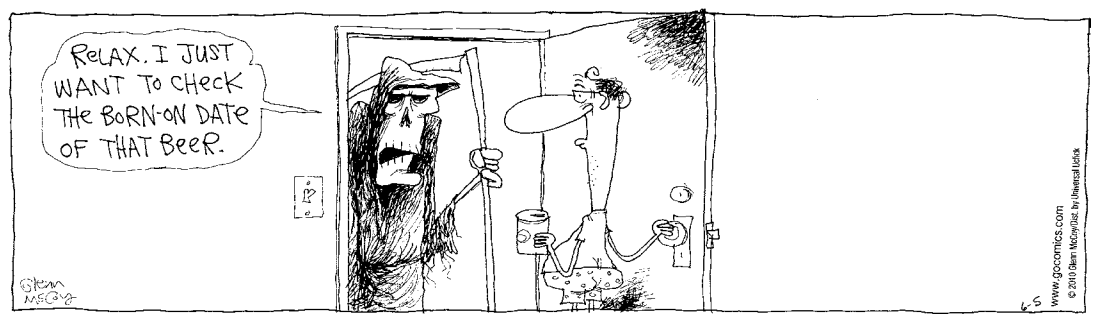
LIKE THE MEANING OF LIFE?
LIKE WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO CHUCK CUNNINGHAM ON "HAPPY DAYS"!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


RELAX. I JUST WANT TO CHECK THE BORN-ON DATE OF THAT BEER.
Glenn McCoy
6-5
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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

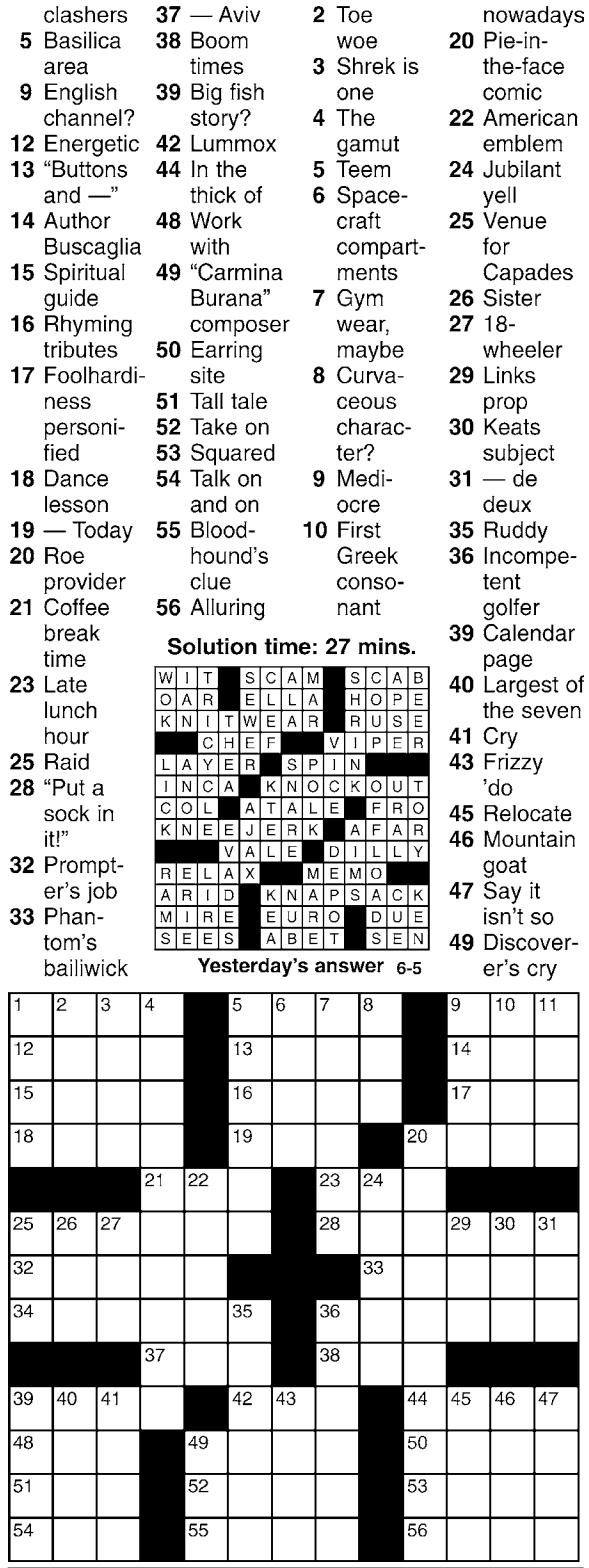
ACROSS
1 Hollywood clashers
5 Basilica area
9 English channel?
12 Energetic
13 "Buttons and —"
14 Author Buscaglia
15 Spiritual guide
16 Rhyming tributes
17 Foolhardiness personified
18 Dance lesson
19 — Today
20 Roe provider
21 Coffee break time
23 Late lunch hour
25 Raid
28 "Put a sock in it!"
32 Prompter's job
33 Phantom's bailiwick
34 Surround
36 Senior members
37 — Aviv
38 Boom times
39 Big fish story?
42 Lummox
44 In the thick of
48 Work with
49 "Carmina Burana" composer
50 Earring site
51 Tall tale
52 Take on
53 Squared
54 Talk on and on
55 Bloodhound's clue
56 Alluring

DOWN
1 Early birds?
2 Toe woe
3 Shrek is one
4 The gamut
5 Teem
6 Spacecraft compartments
7 Gym wear, maybe
8 Curvaceous character?
9 Mediocre
10 First Greek consonant
11 Like many dorms nowadays
20 Pie-in-the-face comic
22 American emblem
24 Jubilant yell
25 Venue for Capades
26 Sister
27 18-wheeler
29 Links prop
30 Keats subject
31 — de deux
35 Ruddy
36 Incompetent golfer
39 Calendar page
40 Largest of the seven
41 Cry
43 Frizzy 'do
45 Relocate
46 Mountain goat
47 Say it isn't so
49 Discoverer's cry

Solution time: 27 mins.

W	I	T	■	S	C	A	M	■	S	C	A	B
O	A	R	■	E	L	L	A	■	H	O	P	E
K	N	I	T	W	E	A	R	■	R	U	S	E
■	■	■	C	H	E	F	■	■	V	I	P	E	R
L	A	Y	E	R	■	S	P	I	N	■	■	■
I	N	C	A	■	K	N	O	C	K	O	U	T
C	O	L	■	A	T	A	L	E	■	F	R	O
K	N	E	E	J	E	R	K	■	A	F	A	R
■	■	■	V	A	L	E	■	D	I	L	L	Y
R	E	L	A	X	■	■	M	E	M	O	■	■
A	R	I	D	■	K	N	A	P	S	A	C	K
M	I	R	E	■	E	U	R	O	■	D	U	E
S	E	E	S	■	A	B	E	T	■	S	E	N

Yesterday's answer 6-5



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mark Wahlberg, 39; Brian McKnight, 41; Ron Livingston, 43; Bill Moyers, 76

Happy Birthday: Pay your dues before moving on. Once you have taken care of business, the year will unfold to your liking, bringing with it new possibilities to excel. Make your environment comforting and comfortable. What you do now will enable you to move forward without regret or worry. Your numbers are 2, 12, 14, 17, 24, 38, 42

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Taking on too much or overdoing it will cause personal problems. Instead, listen and consider all your options. Someone you care about may try to persuade you to engage in something that doesn't interest you. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You can accomplish a lot if you are open about the way you feel. Love is highlighted. Set up special plans to meet new people if you are single or engage in a fun-filled day with your current partner. Travel or visit romantic destinations. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Offering help may seem like a noble thing to do but don't cross a line that you will regret or begrudge. Only do what you are comfortable doing. Added burdens will cause you to miss out on something that could change your life. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Accept the inevitable. You have to compromise and adapt to the situation around you if you want to advance. You can make anything work to your advantage if you adjust your way of thinking and your attitude. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You have to be forward-thinking. You can expect to be confronted with some negative responses but, if you know what you are doing and you have a set goal, it will be difficult for anyone to stand in your way. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Do everything in your power to enhance an important partnership. Taking time to address complaints or suggestions will show your dedication and sincere concern for others. Plan a fun-filled evening for the people or person you love most. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Develop a skill or talent you have not used to its full potential. You can even find a way to turn something you enjoy into a moneymaking endeavor. Don't let a personal matter drag you down. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You will have a much broader view of something you've been trying to pursue if you discuss your concerns with an experienced person. You'll be surprised how simple it will be to make a couple of adjustments so that you can carry on. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You'll have a fight on your hands if you try to push someone to do things your way. Emotional upset will lead to a rebellious response. It's best to let things cool down. Giving someone an ultimatum will not bode well. ✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You can make amends with someone you care about if you are honest and are willing to compromise. Follow advice a close friend or relative offers. A day trip or visiting a place you have never been will make you realize you have much to be grateful for. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Keeping secrets or not telling someone the truth will cause more problems. Offer a straight answer to any questions asked. Uncertainty regarding your money, health or a legal matter should be addressed. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Put your heart on the line and let your feelings be known. If you are straight up about what you are doing and what you want to see happen, you can reach your goals. Love is looking very good, so make plans for a night out. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are serious, compassionate, considerate and caring and will work hard to strength family ties. You face uncertainty boldly.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

2								9
	7				5		8	
3		8				5		4
	4		7		9			
			1		8		7	
4		1				6		3
	8		3				2	
5								1

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/05

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	8	9	7	3	2	1	5	4
3	7	2	1	5	4	6	8	9
4	5	1	9	6	8	2	3	7
7	4	3	6	8	1	5	9	2
2	1	5	4	7	9	8	6	3
8	9	6	3	2	5	4	7	1
9	2	8	5	4	7	3	1	6
1	6	4	8	9	3	7	2	5
5	3	7	2	1	6	9	4	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/02

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

VERBS **Solution: 6 letters**

N	E	X	K	(T)	(H)	(E)	(N)	P	H	R	A	S	E	O
O	O	L	I	H	C	E	E	P	S	H	A	T	C	P
I	A	M	P	F	D	R	D	O	O	M	I	C	U	D
T	E	G	M	I	F	A	W	P	C	R	U	O	G	N
O	L	A	R	O	C	U	E	O	W	R	R	M	N	U
M	A	E	R	A	C	I	S	R	R	G	O	M	I	O
E	C	M	L	E	M	E	T	H	O	D	C	A	L	P
T	I	T	S	A	P	M	L	R	E	T	O	N	L	M
A	D	N	E	C	N	O	A	L	A	K	U	D	E	O
G	O	E	T	S	O	G	R	R	I	P	R	S	P	C
U	I	V	F	H	N	N	U	P	I	T	S	O	S	J
J	R	E	C	I	E	E	V	A	M	A	E	O	W	O
N	E	S	D	O	N	O	T	E	G	O	S	R	O	I
O	P	N	L	A	T	E	R	E	Y	E	V	N	A	N
C	E	S	O	P	M	O	C	Y	R	U	L	E	S	L

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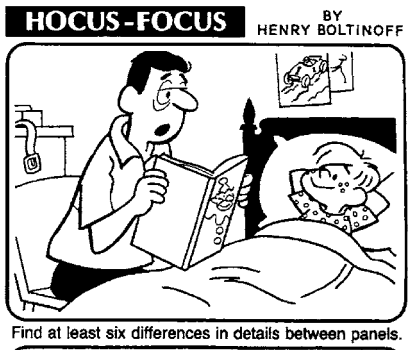
Command, Common, Compose, Compound, Conjugate, Convey, Courses, Define, Direct, Emotion, Ending, Event, Grammar, Group, Hope, Join, Language, Later, Literal, Message, Method, Model, Mood, Move, Occur, Oral, Participle, Past, Perform, Periodical, Phrase, Proper, Read, Rules, School, Soon, Speech, Spelling, Suffix, Talk, Tense, Then, Theory, Time, Word, Work, Write

Yesterday's Answer: Laptop

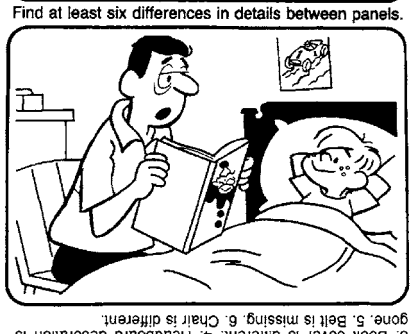
To order THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 28, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 or 30 send $5.95 each (US funds only) payable to Universal Uclick plus $3 postage for the first book order, $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to WONDERWORD, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64105 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Pajamas are different. 2. Picture is gone. 3. Book cover is different. 4. Headboard decoration is gone. 5. Belt is missing. 6. Chair is different.

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Wishing Well®

6	3	8	3	7	4	2	6	8	7	6	3	4
N	O	S	L	B	B	S	O	E	E	B	D	U
2	4	8	2	8	6	4	7	8	2	8	6	5
U	I	T	C	H	O	L	S	I	C	G	U	S
3	8	4	8	2	5	4	3	7	4	6	8	5
L	H	D	S	E	A	B	O	E	R	N	T	V
3	6	5	2	3	2	5	3	5	3	6	4	2
V	D	O	S	E	S	R	R	T	E	S	I	U
5	3	5	4	3	4	5	6	7	5	8	7	8
H	T	E	D	U	G	P	F	N	A	A	S	N
6	5	2	6	3	5	8	7	8	3	8	3	6
O	S	P	R	R	T	D	I	A	N	R	S	Y
4	8	4	2	6	8	6	2	7	2	7	2	7
E	D	S	H	O	S	U	E	B	L	L	D	E

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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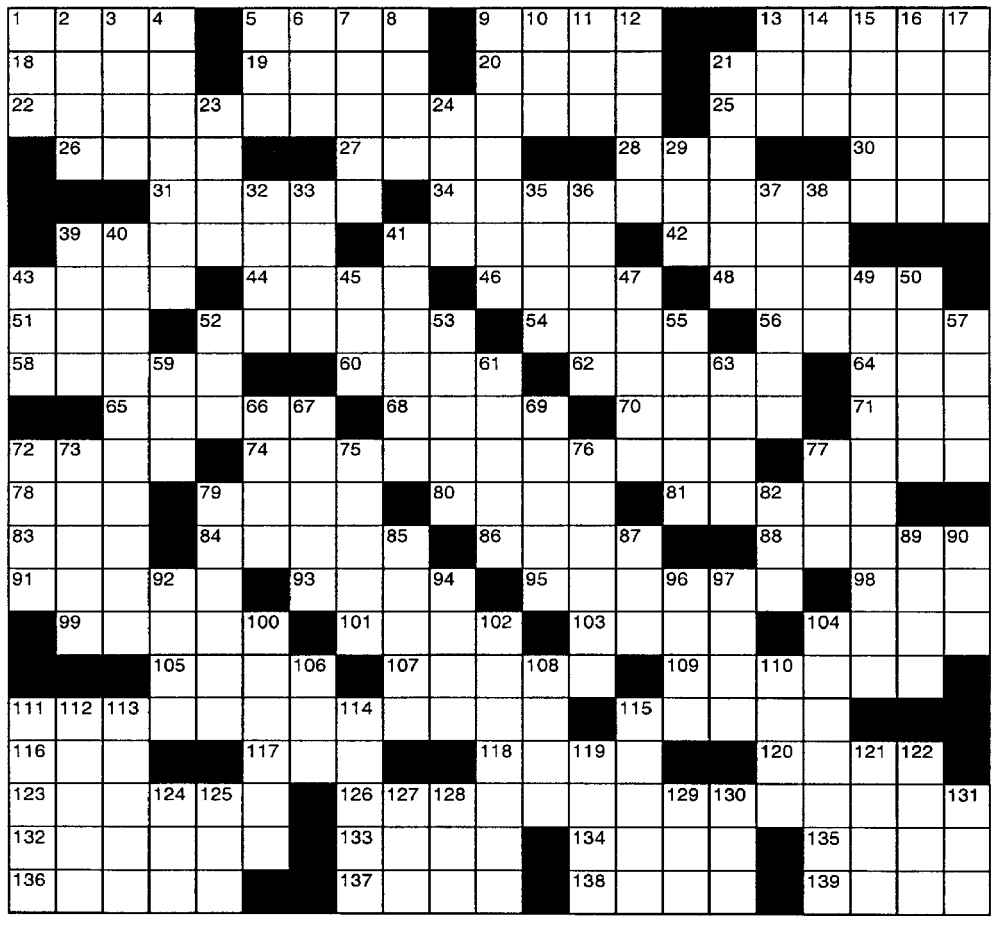
Super Crossword — GREEN PIECE

ACROSS
1 Exchange
5 "— on Entebbe" ('77 film)
9 TV's "— Bridges"
13 Canadian peninsula
18 It may be bitter
19 — Spumante
20 Director Kazan
21 Chaos
22 "Green Card" actress
25 Put the match to
26 Big kid?
27 Lofty
28 Ford of football
30 Hightailed it
31 One of a bunch
34 Green Bay Packers stadium
39 Dieter's snack
41 Streep of "The Hours"
42 Act like a stallion
43 Loathe
44 Bucks beginning
46 Mine car
48 Coronet
51 Gray matter?
52 Occult
54 The — Brothers
56 Depart
58 Stiller's partner
60 He gave us a lift
62 Carve a canyon
64 Illuminated
65 Nick of "Cannery Row"
68 To — (perfectly)
70 Alum
71 Arafat's grp.
72 Gulf state
74 "Green Acres" actor
77 Jackie of "The Tuxedo"
78 Brooks or Ott
79 — -dieu (kneeler)
80 Galaxy glitterer
81 Neighbor of 72 Across
83 "— of You" ('84 hit)
84 Annoys
86 Budge
88 Eye opener?
91 Shortstop Pee Wee
93 German river
95 Bright inventor?
98 — es Salaam
99 Come in
101 Job opening
103 Vegetate
104 Impudent
105 "— Leaf" ('71 film)
107 One of the Osmonds
109 Blazing
111 "The Green Man" author
115 "Don Giovanni" setting
116 Year, in Yucatan
117 Nabokov novel
118 Raindrop sound
120 Leaf part
123 Polly-syllabic one?
126 "Green Tambourine" group
132 Dubious
133 Joyce's land
134 Part of HOMES
135 Den
136 Abounds (with)
137 Risked a ticket
138 Coming up
139 Org. founded in 1844

DOWN
1 Bath, e.g.
2 Flicker feature
3 Actor Ray
4 Supple
5 Aries animal
6 Fit — fiddle
7 Like a mosquito bite
8 Actress Conn
9 Inn-based sitcom
10 Bristol brew
11 "— vous plait"
12 Berry of "Monster's Ball"
13 Silence
14 Writer Rand
15 British county
16 Pansy part
17 Correct
21 Stately dance
23 Raison d'—
24 Inspect too closely?
29 Corn portion
32 Bilko's employer
33 Colors
35 Pianist Hess
36 Criticize
37 Went down in history?
38 "Dies —"
39 Ablative or dative
40 Green Mountain Boys leader
41 Cocktail choice
43 Actor's lunch?
45 Pontiac model
47 Consolidate
49 Green Party candidate
50 Saint Theresa's home
52 "— de mer"
53 Quotes an expert
55 "My fault!"
57 007's school
59 Baseball's Guidry
61 Throne and pew
63 See socially
66 Austin of "Knots Landing"
67 Roman magistrate
69 Gladden
72 Poet Khayyam
73 Donnybrook
75 Exploits
76 It has a bit part
77 "Fantasia" frame
79 Fusses with feathers
82 Guy
85 Alabama city
87 — Grande
89 Seldom seen
90 "The A-Team" actor
92 Forest father
94 Wander
96 Clout a cad
97 "Eugene Onegin" character
100 Tell tales
102 Increased by 200 percent
104 Full array
106 Tie the knot
108 Land in the sea
110 Ferrer musical
111 Done for
112 Cockamamie
113 Scandinavian
114 Early Eastwood role
115 Fern feature
119 Harbinger
121 Put on a happy face
122 Lexicographer Partridge
124 41 Down ingredient
125 Hosp. areas
127 Cool
128 Poetic preposition
129 Veto
130 Cosset a corgi
131 Mexican Mrs.



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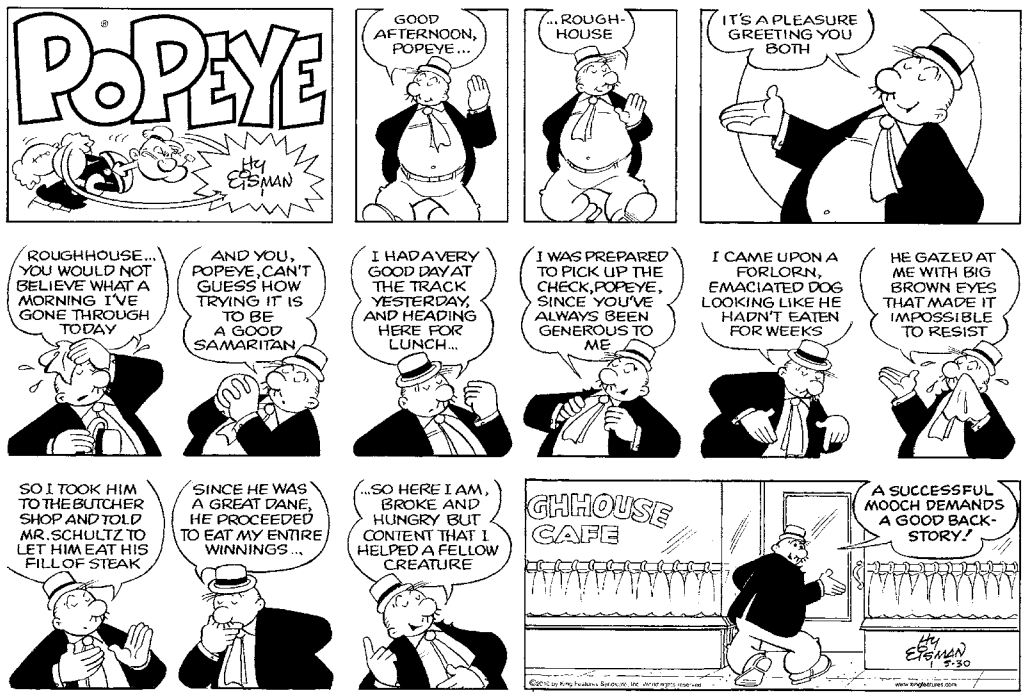
POPEYE
Hy EISMAN
GOOD AFTERNOON, POPEYE...
...ROUGH-HOUSE
IT'S A PLEASURE GREETING YOU BOTH
ROUGHHOUSE... YOU WOULD NOT BELIEVE WHAT A MORNING I'VE GONE THROUGH TODAY
AND YOU, POPEYE, CAN'T GUESS HOW TRYING IT IS TO BE A GOOD SAMARITAN
I HAD A VERY GOOD DAY AT THE TRACK YESTERDAY, AND HEADING HERE FOR LUNCH...
I WAS PREPARED TO PICK UP THE CHECK, POPEYE, SINCE YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN GENEROUS TO ME
I CAME UPON A FORLORN, EMACIATED DOG LOOKING LIKE HE HADN'T EATEN FOR WEEKS
HE GAZED AT ME WITH BIG BROWN EYES THAT MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO RESIST
SO I TOOK HIM TO THE BUTCHER SHOP AND TOLD MR. SCHULTZ TO LET HIM EAT HIS FILL OF STEAK
SINCE HE WAS A GREAT DANE, HE PROCEEDED TO EAT MY ENTIRE WINNINGS...
...SO HERE I AM, BROKE AND HUNGRY BUT CONTENT THAT I HELPED A FELLOW CREATURE
GHHOUSE CAFE
A SUCCESSFUL MOOCH DEMANDS A GOOD BACK-STORY!
Hy EISMAN 5-30

They'll Do It Every Time — by Al Scaduto

A HARD DAY'S WORK DEPT—
IF RAISING CHILDREN WAS GOING TO BE EASY, IT NEVER WOULD HAVE STARTED WITH SOMETHING CALLED LABOR...
WAA-A-
—thank to M. LUCASTER, THE BRONX, N.Y.
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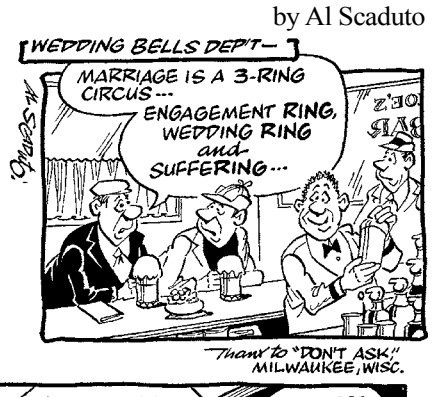
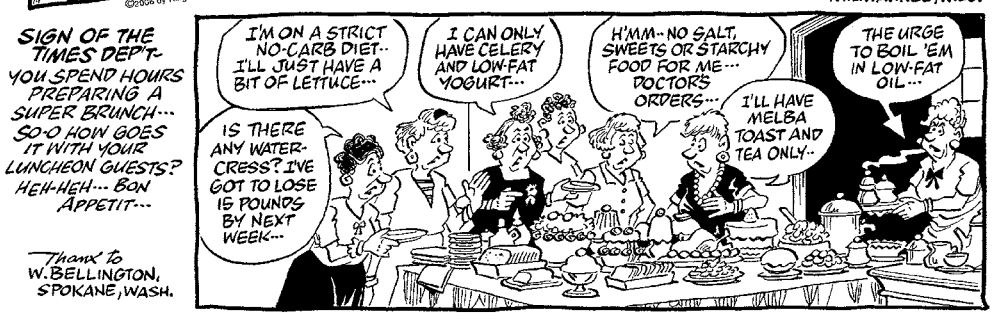
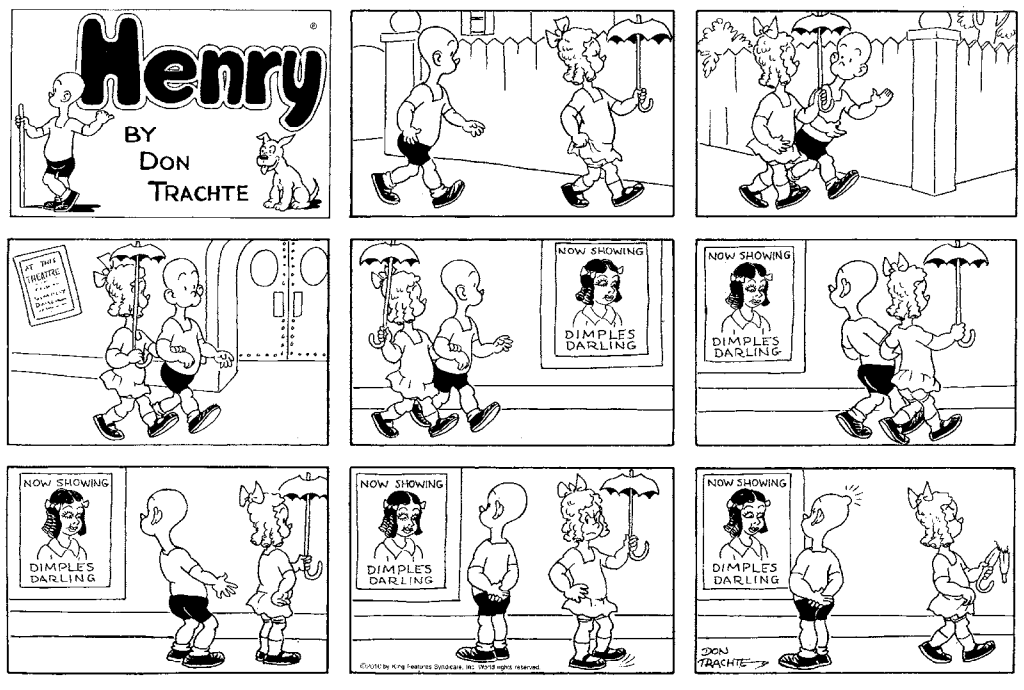
ALSCADUTO2@OPTONLINE.NET


WEDDING BELLS DEPT—
MARRIAGE IS A 3-RING CIRCUS...
ENGAGEMENT RING, WEDDING RING and SUFFERING...
Al Scaduto
Thank to "DON'T ASK," MILWAUKEE, WISC.


SIGN OF THE TIMES DEPT-
YOU SPEND HOURS PREPARING A SUPER BRUNCH... SO-O HOW GOES IT WITH YOUR LUNCHEON GUESTS? HEH-HEH... BON APPETIT...
Thank to W. BELLINGTON, SPOKANE, WASH.
I'M ON A STRICT NO-CARB DIET.. I'LL JUST HAVE A BIT OF LETTUCE...
I CAN ONLY HAVE CELERY AND LOW-FAT YOGURT...
H'MM.. NO SALT, SWEETS OR STARCHY FOOD FOR ME... DOCTOR'S ORDERS...
I'LL HAVE MELBA TOAST AND TEA ONLY..
THE URGE TO BOIL 'EM IN LOW-FAT OIL...
IS THERE ANY WATER-CRESS? I'VE GOT TO LOSE 15 POUNDS BY NEXT WEEK...



Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. TELEVISION: Who was the star of the cable series "The Sopranos"?
2. MOVIES: What kind of fish is Dory in "Finding Nemo"?
3. ANATOMY: What organ in the human body produces bile?
4. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the first U.S. president to lose a re-election bid?
5. FAMOUS QUOTES: Who once said, "All you need in this life is ignorance and confidence, and then success is sure."
6. MATH: What is the perimeter of an equilateral triangle that measures 16 cm on one side?
7. HISTORY: What is the earliest written system of laws known to us?
8. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What are the wild dogs of Australia called?
9. AD SLOGANS: What product was claimed in advertisements to be "good to the last drop"?
10. GEOGRAPHY: What is the largest country in South America?

Answers
1. James Gandolfini
2. Regal blue tang
3. Liver
4. The second president, John Adams, served a single term and lost narrowly to Thomas Jefferson
5. Mark Twain
6. 48 cm
7. The Code of Hammurabi (Babylonian ruler) was inscribed in a black stone monument around 1790 B.C.
8. Dingoes
9. Maxwell House coffee
10. Brazil

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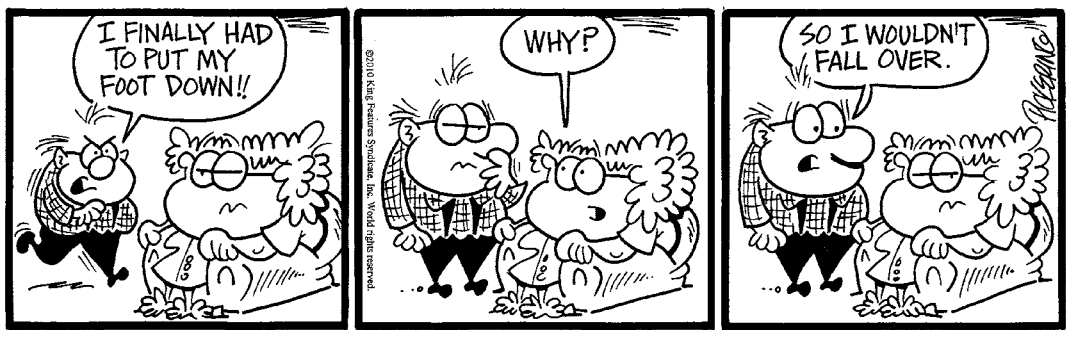
Saturday's Answers

The Spats — by Jeff Pickering


I FINALLY HAD TO PUT MY FOOT DOWN!!
WHY?
SO I WOULDN'T FALL OVER.
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JEFFPICKERING

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	**$15**	**$27**
• 5-Liner	**$24**	**$39**
• 3-Liner with picture	**$24**	**$42**
• 5-Liner with picture	**$36**	**$57**

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

hope, strength and joy!
"My wish is to become a firefighter!"
Saipan Tribune
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Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH • Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily

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$100 Security Deposit Required
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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

ONE RIGHT RITE WRIGHT WRITE WON

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Find today's solution in this section

Saipan Tribune
Sports
28 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2009
There's nothing Super about the Pittsburgh Steelers anymore.
25
Angamwas rules 4-person
Tribu
FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
TUESDAY DECEMBER 15, 2009
XIX, Issue No. 299
Fitial eyes Cepeda's re-appointment to NMC b
DPH to ask for extension of emergency declar
$1.35M earmarks for NMI now up for O
By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER
The fate of the $1.35 million in CNMI special projects funding requested by Del-
egate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) now rests with President Obama, after the conference report on the omnibus Fiscal Year 2010 spending bill cleared the U.S. Senate on Sunday.
Sablan's request for $1.35 fund seven programs and proj tained in the Conference Rep Year 2010 Consolidated Ap Act, a $447-billion spendin
10 DAYS to go before Christmas
Fitial: Ombudsman shoul
OPINION
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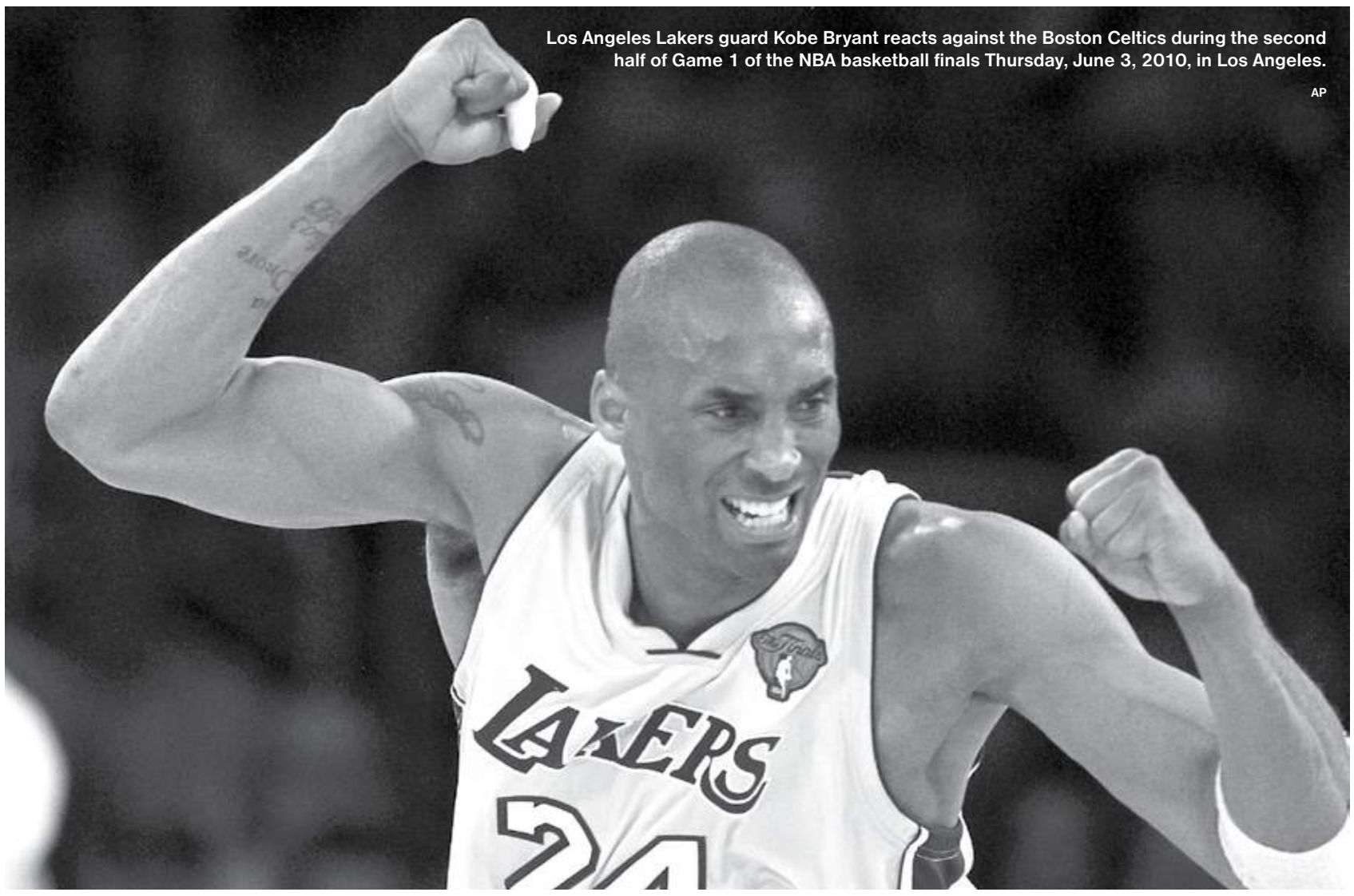
Kobe spurs Lakers past Celtics in finals opener



Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant reacts against the Boston Celtics during the second half of Game 1 of the NBA basketball finals Thursday, June 3, 2010, in Los Angeles.

AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—So the Celtics want to play rough again? Kobe Bryant and the Lakers look ready this time around, and they barged into an early lead in the NBA finals.

Bryant scored 30 points, Pau Gasol had 23 points and 14 rebounds, and defending champion Los Angeles got tough in a 102-89 victory over Boston in the NBA finals opener Thursday night.

Ron Artest scored 15 points after tumbling to the ground in a tangle with Paul Pierce in the opening minute of the 12th finals meeting in the NBA's most scintillating rivalry. Bryant and Gasol then led a gritty physical effort against the Celtics, who memorably pushed around the Lakers while winning their 2008 finals matchup in six games.

"They were the more physical team by far," Celtics coach Doc Rivers said. "They were more aggressive. They attacked us the entire night. I didn't think we handled it very well."

Pierce scored 24 points and Kevin Garnett added 16 after a slow start for the Celtics, who might not want to know Lakers coach Phil Jackson's teams in Los Angeles and Chicago have won 47 straight playoff series after winning Game 1.

"I wish I had put it in the bank, so to speak," said Jackson, the 10-time champion. "We've got to play this out. ... Our defense stiffened at various points in the game, was very effective. We've got a lot of work ahead of us, but it's nice to know that (the 47-0 streak) is on our side."

Game 2 is Sunday night at Staples Center.

If the first 48 minutes of the rematch are any indication, this series again will be a knockdown, drag-out physical confrontation—and the supposedly finesse-oriented Lakers held their ground early.

Ray Allen scored 12 points in just 27 minutes, saddled with constant foul trouble while trying to guard Bryant. Pierce also picked up early fouls, while Garnett simply struggled, going 7 for 16 from the field and grabbing just four rebounds—even inexplicably missing an open layup with 5 1/2 minutes to play.

That's mostly because of Gasol, the Spanish 7-footer determined to assert himself after admittedly getting pushed around by Garnett two years ago. Gasol capped a strong game by sprinting downcourt and catching a long pass in stride for a dunk with 6:21 to play.

"Pau played a big game tonight," Jackson said. "I thought they did a good job on him in the post, but his movement and his activity was important."

This one was rough from the opening tumble.

Just 27 seconds in, Artest and Pierce got double technical fouls after crashing to the court back-to-back with elbows locked. The mood didn't improve much in a game featuring 54 fouls, but Bryant's playmaking and the Lakers' inside advantages drove them to a 20-point lead after three quarters before surviving Boston's final run.

"You can't ease into the game, espeically in the finals," Pierce said. "That's one of the better rebounding teams in the NBA. We've just got to do a better job rebounding the ball, eliminating easy opportunities. When I look up and we've given up 100 points, I haven't seen that in a while."

Los Angeles outrebounded the Celtics 42-31 and put up a strong shooting percentage until a fourth-quarter slump, again excelling at the their two biggest areas of strength in this postseason.

Andrew Bynum scored 10 points on his injured right knee as the Lakers improved to 9-0 at home in the playoffs, with 12 straight postseason home wins dating to last year's championship run.

Rajon Rondo had 13 points—just three in the second half—and eight assists as Boston went 1 for 10 on 3-pointers, but forced 15 turnovers with active hands in passing lanes.

Bryant scored just four points in the fourth quarter, but hit a 3-pointer in the final seconds. He added seven rebounds and six assists in his 12th 30-point game of the postseason.

Pierce and Artest set a resonant tone for the first quarter, which featured 18 personal fouls and 20 free throws, 12 by Boston. The Lakers took a 50-41 halftime lead, but Rondo kept the Lakers close with 10 points, including a buzzer-beating jumper.

Los Angeles took charge in the final minutes of the third quarter, when Bryant led an 11-2 run to an 84-64 lead heading into the fourth. Boston swiftly sliced that lead with a 10-1 run in the first four minutes, but the Lakers kept their lead in double digits throughout the fourth.

Boston had homecourt advantage in the clubs' 2008 meeting, but these Celtics will have to win at least once at Staples Center, where the Lakers have won 12 straight playoff games since last season's Western Conference finals.

The arena was packed well before the opening tip for the Lakers' third straight appearance in the NBA finals, and several thousand fans actually deigned to put on the giveaway gold T-shirts handed out by the team. The T-shirt stunt failed miserably the past two times Los Angeles tried it in the playoffs.

Schiavone to meet Stosur in French final

PARIS (AP)—Go figure: The women's French Open final will be between a clay-kissing Italian and a giant-killing Australian.

Francesca Schiavone will play Samantha Stosur on Saturday, the latest surprise in a week full of them at Roland Garros. Both are first-time Grand Slam finalists.

"We're both going to be excited," Stosur said. "It's a great opportunity for both of us."

Schiavone became the first Italian woman to reach a major final Thursday when opponent Elena Dementieva unexpectedly retired with a left calf injury after losing the first set 7-6 (3).

Stosur then became the first Australian woman in 30 years to reach a Grand Slam final by drubbing former No. 1 Jelena Jankovic 6-1, 6-2.

The No. 7-seeded Stosur won with the same big serve and booming forehand that helped her upset four-time French Open champion Justine Henin and 12-time Grand Slam winner Serena Williams this week.

The two semifinals lasted barely two hours between them, and the first match ended abruptly. After Dementieva lost the first set, she walked up to Schiavone, who was sitting in her changeover chair, and extended a hand in concession.

"For the moment, I don't understand what's going on," Schiavone said.

The Italian then fell to her knees to kiss the court in a reprise of her quarterfinal celebration and rose with a clay-caked grin.

How did the clay taste?

"It was good," Schiavone said. "So good."

The 29-year-old Schiavone had never previously advanced beyond the quarterfinals in a Grand Slam.

"I've already made history for my country," she said. "In Italy, also, they are very happy, and is time to enjoy for us, for everybody."

While Italians celebrated, Dementieva sobbed before heading for the exit. It's the first time in the Open era that a woman retired in a semifinal or final at Roland Garros.

The Russian said she suffered a tear in her calf in the second round, and she nearly retired during a match last week.

"It was very painful to even walk," Dementieva said. "It was a bit too much. I couldn't really move on the court."

The second match was even shorter than the first, lasting only an hour. Stosur became the first Australian woman to reach a Grand Slam final since Wendy Turnbull, the runner-up at the 1980 Australian Open.

"I can't believe I'm here," Stosur told the crowd after the match. "It wasn't easy to get here. I'm very pleased."

She began the semifinal swinging with the same confidence she showed in her earlier upsets, and after falling behind 2-love in the second set, she swept the final six games. Stosur hit seven aces, lost only six points on her first serve and doubled the overmatched Jankovic in winners, 18-9.

"She's a strong girl," Jankovic said. "You can see by looking at her physically. She can hit pretty big, and she has one of the strongest serves in the women's game."

Long regarded as a doubles specialist, Stosur cracked the top 10 for the first time last month. She's now 6-19 against top-five opponents—and 2-0 this week. Her 20-2 record this year on clay is the best on the women's tour.

The first semifinal was over in 69 minutes, and the ending came as a surprise. Schiavone said she was unaware of any injury, and Dementieva didn't seek treatment from a trainer during the set.

"I had seen trainer for so many hours before the match," Dementieva said. "I don't think they could do something else that could really help me at that point."

She said she likely would have retired even if she had won the first set.

"It is disappointing to get injured and not use this chance to get further," she said. "But what can I do? I cannot change anything."

Seeded fifth, Dementieva was seeking her first Grand Slam title playing in her 46th major event. She said she might be forced to skip Wimbledon later this month.

The No. 17-seeded Schiavone rallied from a 2-love deficit to win the tiebreaker. Each player lost serve only once in the set, but Dementieva had twice as many errors, 24-12, and double-faulted four times.

Schiavone is projected to crack the top 10 for the first time next week. She's the first Italian to reach a Grand Slam final since Adriano Panatta won the 1976 Roland Garros men's title.

The women's final will be the fifth at a major tournament in the Open era between two first-time Grand Slam finalists.

"It's a different, new situation for both of us," Stosur said. "I'm sure there are going to be some nerves out there."

In the men's semifinals Friday, four-time champion Rafael Nadal plays journeyman Jurgen Melzer, who never advanced beyond the third round in his previous 31 major tournaments. Another first-time Grand Slam semifinalist, Tomas Berdych, faces last year's runner-up, Robin Soderling.

A's find power to beat Red Sox

BOSTON (AP)—Kurt Suzuki hit two of Oakland's four homers as the Athletics showed unusual power in overcoming Boston's 18-hit attack and winning 9-8 in the American League on Thursday.

The A's entered the game with the third-fewest in the majors, but hit more than two in a game for the first time this season.

Suzuki homered in his first two at bats against Tim Wakefield (1-4), a solo shot in the second inning and a two-run homer in the fourth. Then, with Oakland leading 7-5 in the eighth, Jack Cust and Kevin Kouzmanoff hit homers on consecutive pitches.

Bill Hall's solo homer in the ninth pulled the Red Sox within a run, but A's closer Andrew Bailey got the last two outs for his 12th save.

Mariners 4, Twins 1

In Seattle, Felix Hernandez snapped a personal four-game losing streak, allowing one run over eight innings as Seattle beat AL Central-leading Minnesota.

The Mariners' ace just avoided getting drilled in the head by Justin Morneau's liner in the first inning, then settled into a groove. After Morneau's RBI hit, Hernandez (3-4) retired 22 of the final 27 batters he faced.

Hernandez even struck out four Twins in the eighth inning after Joe Mauer reached base when a third strike in the dirt bounced away from catcher Rob Johnson. No problem for Hernandez, who got Morneau looking to end the inning and add to his strikeout total.

Jose Lopez hit a three-run homer for Seattle. Twins starter Carl Pavano (5-6) was the loser.

White Sox 4, Rangers 3

In Chicago, Carlos Quentin, booed after committing an error that led to a Texas run, atoned with a two-run homer for Chicago in the seventh inning, helping the White Sox edge the Rangers.

Chicago starter Freddy Garcia (5-3) pitched seven solid innings, and Andruw Jones and Alex Rios also homered for the White Sox, who avoided being swept at home by the Rangers for the first time in 24 years.

Texas starter Colby Lewis (4-4) was in command for six innings, but three pitches in the seventh blew a 3-2 lead. After A.J. Pierzynski doubled on the first pitch, Quentin sent Lewis' pitch just over the right-field fence.

White Sox closer Bobby Jenks worked a scoreless ninth for his eighth save.

Angels 5, Royals 4

In Kansas City, Jered Weaver outpitched Zack Greinke in seven scoreless innings to steer Los Angeles past Kansas City.

Weaver (5-2) was sharp for the fourth straight start, getting his first win since May 7 behind a Los Angeles offense that knocked around Greinke (1-7).

Torii Hunter homered for the second straight game for the Angels, who had 12 hits after getting 14 the night before. Los Angeles (28-28) reached .500 for the first time in over a month.

Greinke seemed off-kilter for the second straight home start, extending his post-Cy Young misery by allowing four runs in six innings.

Yankees 6, Orioles 3

In New York, Alex Rodriguez homered to help New York inflict hapless Baltimore's eighth straight loss.

AP

Oakland Athletics catcher Kurt Suzuki, left, and pitcher Andrew Bailey celebrate after the Athletics defeated the Boston Red Sox, 9-8, in a baseball game at Boston's Fenway Park, Thursday, June 3, 2010.

Brett Gardner also homered and Robinson Cano had an RBI double off Kevin Millwood (0-6) as the Yankees won their fifth consecutive game, all against divisional last-place teams.

New York starter C.C. Sabathia (5-3) won for the first time in a month, allowing three hits and striking out seven over seven innings, improving to 12-1 against the Orioles by beating them for the third time this season.

Luke Scott hit a two-run homer and Adam Jones also connected for the Orioles.

Tigers 12, Indians 6

In Detroit, Magglio Ordonez and Miguel Cabrera hit consecutive homers in a five-run seventh inning as Detroit routed Cleveland.

The Tigers quickly bounced back from the disappointment of Wednesday, when a blown umpirng call cost pitcher Armando Galarraga a perfect game.

Detroit reliever Brad Thomas (2-0) retired two in the sixth inning for the win.

Cleveland's Hector Abriz (0-1) gave up a run on two hits in an inning to take the loss.

Braves 4, Dodgers 3

In Los Angeles, Kris Medlen took a three-hit shutout into the eighth inning and doubled home a run as the Atlanta Braves held on for a win over the Los Angeles Dodgers, notching a ninth straight win.

Troy Glaus homered for the fourth time in five games as Atlanta brought up its longest winning streak in 10 years.

Medlen (3-1) was charged with two earned runs in a career-high 7 1-3 innings, walking none in his ninth big league start.

Atlanta closer Takashi Saito—pitching against his old side—retired the first two batters in the ninth before injuring a hamstring. Jonny Venters came on and strick out Russell Martin with his first pitch for his first major league save.

Los Angeles' Hiroki Kuroda (5-4) was the loser.

Marlins 3, Brewers 2

In Miami, Josh Johnson pitched seven strong innings to guide Florida to a tight win over Milwaukee.

Johnson (6-2) finally allowed an earned run, ending his streak at 31 1-3 innings spanning parts of six starts. The towering pitcher allowed one run while striking out eight. Leo Nunez converted his 12th save in 14 opportunities. Ronny Paulino drove in two runs for the Marlins.

Milwaukee starter Chris Capuano (0-1), returning from Tommy John surgery, made his first start in the majors since 2007, and allowed three runs in 3 2-3 innings.

Astros 6, Nationals 4

In Houston, Carlos Lee hit a two-run homer in the ninth for Houston after the Astros tied it on an error by Washington's Cristian Guzman.

Michael Bourn started the comeback with a double to center. After a ground out, Lance Berkman drove a sinking liner that dropped at Guzman's feet and bounced away.

Lee then drove an pitch from Matt Capps (0-3) into the left-field porch for his second two-run, game-ending homer of the season and the Astros' second win in their last at-bat in three days.

Guzman had given the Nationals a 4-3 lead in the top of the ninth off Astros closer Matt Lindstrom (1-2).

Ogilvy, Fowler, Rose share lead at Memorial

DUBLIN, Ohio (AP)—Geoff Ogilvy felt as though he made more putts in one round at the Memorial than he had in the last month. One little miss that cost him the outright lead Thursday sure wasn't going to spoil his day.

On greens that were fast and pure despite two rain delays at Muirfield Village, Ogilvy rolled in eight birdie putts to take the lead, only to fall into a three-way tie when he stepped over a 30-inch par putt and watched it spin out of the cup on his 17th hole.

No matter. He still shot a 7-under 65, his best start of the year, and shared the lead with 21-year-old Rickie Fowler and Justin Rose, who made most of his birdies after the 2-hour rain delay in the morning.

"I putted very well," Ogilvy said with a wry smile before adding, "except for one little blip."

They were two shots ahead of a large group that included Phil Mickelson, who can go to No. 1 in the world with a victory on the course Jack Nicklaus built, as long as Tiger Woods isn't among the top four.

Woods, the defending champion, will be playing again Friday with the cut in question.

He looked ordinary through most of the afternoon, failing to make birdie on any of the par 5s in a round of 72. Beyond a few errant tee shots, he was off by some 30 and 40 feet with wedges in his hand on several holes.

"They're perfect sand wedge numbers, but I can't hit a sand wedge because it's going to rip (spin)," Woods said. "I had to hit little wedges and I don't have the feel for it yet. I hit terrible shots. That's just the way it goes."

It was the first time since 2004 that he failed to break par at the Memorial, which he has won four times.

Mickelson has never come particularly close to winning the Memorial, although it is among those he would dearly love to win. Nicklaus even joked with him Wednesday that a golfer's resume is not complete without a victory at Muirfield Village, spinning a phrase that Bobby Jones once said about St. Andrews.

"I told Jack yesterday it would really mean a lot to me to win his tournament," Mickelson said. "This golf course is wonderful."

Mickelson played bogey-free for his 67, a refreshing change from last week when he missed the cut at the Colonial. He made up ground toward the end of his round with two simple birdies on the par 5s at No. 5 and No. 7, sandwiched around a 10-foot birdie on the sixth.

"The soft greens allow you to attack a lot of the pins," Mickelson said. "It played a lot longer because the ball wasn't rolling. It was a very fun day and a lot of good scoring today."

Rose began pouring it birdies not long after a downpour that soaked the course. He birdied six of his last 10 holes to get his name atop the leaderboard, and no one could catch him until the afternoon.

First came Fowler and a blazing stretch of holes on the front nine. After a bogey on the third, Fowler ran off three straight birdies, then holed a wedge for eagle on the par-5 seventh and birdied the eighth hole to get into the mix.

Then it was Ogilvy's turn.

He finished the back nine with a birdie on the 18th, where the pin was cut in the front of the green. On his next hole, from a deep bunker right of the fairway, he hit 8-iron to a back pin, 12 feet away for what he called his best birdie of the day.

There were a lot of them.

"It was nice to hole the putts," Ogilvy said. "If anything has been missing from my game the last month or two it's been poor putting."

Ogilvy noticed the low scores when he arrived at the course. Along with Rose at 65, Mickelson was joined by Andres Romero of Argentina, Rory Sabbatini and Michael Letzig, who last year played the final round with Woods and saw his 65 to win.

"It was definitely a day to make some birdies," Ogilvy said. "You want to take advantage of a day like today because this course generally won't get any easier during the week. It does give you a few chances, and it's nice to take them, for sure."

As for that little miss?

"Just one of those things," he shrugged. "It happens to you two or three times a year."

It happened on the par-3 eighth, when Ogilvy was at 8 under and had a birdie putt just inside 15 feet. He ran it 30 inches by the cup, and without marking the ball, stepped over it and saw it spin in and out of hole.

"It's easier when you miss a 2-foot and it takes you back to 7 under," he said.

Woods could have gone either way.

He went long of the first green for a bogey, and dropped another shot on the sixth when his approach from the left rough hit a sprinkler just short of the green and bounced over the putting surface and into the gallery.

Consecutive birdies around the turn brought him back to even as he headed to the par-5 11th, but with a wedge in hand, he went some 40 feet beyond the pin and had to make a 5-foot putt for par. He didn't make birdie the rest of the day, and didn't have that many good chances at them.

"If I take care of the par 5s, I'm right there," he said.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	36	18	.667	—
New York	34	20	.630	2
Boston	31	24	.564	5 1/2
Toronto	31	24	.564	5 1/2
Baltimore	15	39	.278	21

Central Division

Minnesota	31	23	.574	—
Detroit	28	25	.528	2 1/2
Chicago	23	30	.434	7 1/2
Kansas City	22	33	.400	9 1/2
Cleveland	19	33	.365	11

West Division

Texas	28	25	.528	—
Oakland	29	26	.527	—
Los Angeles	28	28	.500	1 1/2
Seattle	22	31	.415	6

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	32	22	.593	—
Philadelphia	28	24	.538	3
Florida	28	27	.509	4 1/2
New York	27	27	.500	5
Washington	26	29	.473	6 1/2

Central Division

Cincinnati	31	23	.574	—
St. Louis	31	23	.574	—
Chicago	24	29	.453	6 1/2
Pittsburgh	22	31	.415	8 1/2
Milwaukee	22	32	.407	9
Houston	20	34	.370	11

West Division

San Diego	32	21	.604	—
Los Angeles	31	23	.574	1 1/2
San Francisco	28	24	.538	3 1/2
Colorado	28	25	.528	4
Arizona	20	34	.370	12 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Houston 6, Washington 4
Florida 3, Milwaukee 2
Atlanta 4, L.A. Dodgers 3
N.Y. Yankees 6, Baltimore 3
Detroit 12, Cleveland 6
Oakland 9, Boston 8
L.A. Angels 5, Kansas City 4
Chicago White Sox 4, Texas 3
Seattle 4, Minnesota 1

MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT SCORES

DUBLIN, Ohio (AP) — Scores Thursday from the U.S. PGA Tour's $6 million Memorial Tournament at the par 72 (36-36), 7,366-yard Muirfield Village Golf Course.

FIRST ROUND

a-denotes amateur

Justin Rose	31-34—65
Rickie Fowler	31-34—65
Geoff Ogilvy	33-32—65
Michael Letzig	32-35—67
Andres Romero	35-32—67
Phil Mickelson	33-34—67
Rory Sabbatini	34-33—67
Jason Day	33-34—67
Steve Marino	33-35—68
Sean O'Hair	35-33—68
Jim Furyk	33-35—68
Spencer Levin	33-35—68
J.B. Holmes	35-33—68
Fredrik Jacobson	35-33—68
Jeff Overton	35-34—69
K.J. Choi	37-32—69
Michael Sim	31-38—69
Tim Petrovic	33-36—69
Kevin Stadler	37-32—69
Steve Stricker	35-34—69
Carl Pettersson	34-35—69
Bubba Watson	35-34—69
Y.E. Yang	35-35—70
Bo Van Pelt	35-35—70
Stewart Cink	35-35—70
Matt Jones	34-36—70
Kevin Streelman	37-33—70
Brett Quigley	34-36—70
Ricky Barnes	35-35—70
Adam Scott	35-35—70
Tim Clark	34-36—70
Ryan Moore	33-37—70
Tom Lehman	35-35—70
Thongchai Jaidee	33-38—71
Tim Herron	35-36—71
Vijay Singh	33-38—71
Pat Perez	34-37—71
Brett Wetterich	35-36—71
Brian Davis	34-37—71
Alex Cejka	35-36—71
Peter Hanson	34-37—71
Kris Blanks	35-36—71
Aaron Baddeley	35-36—71
Woody Austin	35-36—71
Matt Kuchar	35-36—71
Kenny Perry	33-38—71
Brendon de Jonge	36-35—71
Tom Gillis	36-35—71
Blake Adams	36-36—72
Davis Love III	36-36—72
Rory McIlroy	34-38—72
Jerry Kelly	38-34—72
Charley Hoffman	38-34—72
Boo Weekley	33-39—72
Nathan Green	36-36—72
Jonathan Byrd	35-37—72
Tom Pernice, Jr.	35-37—72
Kevin Sutherland	36-36—72
Ryuji Imada	37-35—72
Tiger Woods	37-35—72
Dustin Johnson	36-36—72
Martin Laird	36-36—72
Mark Calcavecchia	33-39—72
J.P. Hayes	37-35—72
WC Liang	36-36—72
Matt Hill	36-36—72
John Merrick	36-37—73
Chad Collins	35-38—73
Webb Simpson	38-35—73
Ben Curtis	35-38—73
Brad Faxon	38-35—73
Zach Johnson	34-39—73
Bill Haas	39-34—73
Henrik Stenson	36-37—73
Angel Cabrera	37-36—73
Chris Couch	38-35—73
Josh Teater	36-37—73
Mathew Goggin	34-39—73
D.A. Points	37-36—73
Billy Mayfair	36-37—73
Joe Ogilvie	37-36—73
John Senden	34-39—73
D.J. Trahan	37-36—73
Stuart Appleby	38-35—73
Erik Compton	36-37—73
Kevin Johnson	36-37—73
Greg Chalmers	36-38—74
Alex Prugh	36-38—74
Bryce Molder	40-34—74
Jason Dufner	36-38—74
Ernie Els	33-41—74
Nick Watney	33-41—74
George McNeill	37-37—74
Jeev Milkha Singh	36-38—74
James Nitties	37-37—74
Jimmy Walker	34-40—74
Jeff Maggert	35-39—74
Jason Bohn	38-36—74
Robert Allenby	36-38—74
Troy Merritt	36-38—74
Graham DeLaet	37-38—75
Hunter Mahan	39-36—75
Brandt Snedeker	37-38—75
Vaughn Taylor	38-37—75
Derek Lamely	38-37—75
Mark Wilson	36-39—75
Troy Matteson	35-40—75
Noh Seung-yul	38-37—75
Rod Pampling	37-39—76
Marc Leishman	39-37—76
John Mallinger	37-39—76
Lucas Glover	38-38—76
Mike Weir	37-40—77
a-Byeong-Hun An	43-34—77
Camilo Villegas	38-39—77
Chris Smith	38-40—78
Chris Wilson	41-37—78
Steve Flesch	39-40—79
David Duval	40-39—79
Sam Saunders	39-44—83

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ARE YOU

From Page 28

lage of Umatac, the race start location, 12 hours prior to the start of the race.

Then in early morning of May 30, race management was held with Mayor Daniel Sanchez and staff presenting the official maps at 3am. Race officials then displayed the course on a big projector screen as the teams discussed their route strategies. At 3:55am teams posed for pictures before entering the ocean for the 4am start time.

At checkpoint 1, flares were lit atop Mt. Bolanos, some 1,200 feet above sea level, where the 65 racers had to navigate their own way through the dark thick jungle and ravines.

As dawn approached, each team eventually made their way to the beach, where two team members boarded two-man, sit-atop kayaks, and the other two began the long coasteer, at high tide, to Cetti Bay and the mouth of the Cetti River.

Each team rowed toward the remote area at the base of the Cetti Falls before they could return and switch positions for the return trip to Umatac. Then the teams had a hard time finding a fast way through the jungle toward the next checkpoint.

Upon reaching Umatac, teams boarded their mountain bikes and headed to the highlands that overlooked the bay. Hard uphill riding on pavement turned into a "hike-a-bike" straight uphill through the parched savannah. It was around 9am and temperatures were already exceeding 85 degrees Fahrenheit with humidity eclipsing 85 percent; two IV bags had already been expended and two teams were down to only three members.

Merizo Elementary School was the end of the first bike leg and the beginning of one of GEAR's most daunting 2.8-mile trekking leg in the midday sun that took nearly four hours to complete on average. No route was good, all presented major challenges in the tropical danger zone hours of 11am to 3pm. This leg claimed many victims with the most serious being an allergic reaction to a bee sting suffered within a half mile of the next checkpoint.

A gear swap resulted in one racer's EpiPen being left in his other pack by accident. With the EpiPen being critical to his well-being, Randall Arms, a past GEAR champion, went into action and took the EpiPen to the fallen racer. The team said later that they felt they were too far out to be reached, but Arms found them and administered the shot into the victim's left thigh within 15 minutes. Race doctor, Andy Sheep, later commented that Arm's fast action might have saved the racer from grave danger.

Team Depends from Saipan soon arrived and gave up their first place standing in the Social Division to assist the man, as one of the two was a doctor. Their communications with Dr. Sheep provided critical information to the pilots and crew of an H-60 helicopter inbound from Anderson Air Force Base. Dr. Sheep, Alan Mian, and Brett Railey, with the race emergency response team, were able to get to the group and get an IV started prior to a MEDEVAC via vertical extraction by the Navy's HSC-25 personnel.

Ija Research Station in Inarajan, Guam marked the second mountain bike leg. *Don't Be A Kitty* from Saipan navigated from one checkpoint to another in a mere three hours and 10 minutes. They left checkpoint 5 at 1:55pm and headed toward checkpoint 7. Second place team *Whitie Tighties* gambled on the high route from Merizo and headed over Mt. Sasalaguan, but arrived and departed some 45 minutes after the Saipan cats. By the end of the bike leg to checkpoint 7, only seven teams were still standing with only four making the cut-off time to enter the long coasteering leg up north from Inarajan Bay toward Talafofo Bay.

Social Division teams celebrated the end of an incredibly long day when they arrived at their finish line. *Holla Back* took the division after 13 hours 27 minutes on trail! *Tylo* and *Team Depends* each finished within 20 minutes of them. Next year, these teams may enter in the Pro division.

With *Tighty Whities* and *Don't Be A Kitty* on the coasteer; *Tim Machim*, *G4ce* and the only remaining team member of *Rocky Mountain Warriors* decided to race together and left checkpoint 7 at 5:23pm—just seven minutes before the previously announced cut-off time. Hard charging *Cable's Best* and the all-women's team, *J'en Sais Rien*, came into Leon Guerrero's Beach just after at 5:42pm and 5:52pm, respectively.

Some members of each team decided to stay at the checkpoint and the remaining members proceeded on a modified course via the road. *ERW* arrived at 6:23pm just after the remaining combo team of *Cable's Best* and *J'en Sais Rien* departed where they opted to pull out of the race. Minutes later, race management received a call that *G4ce* had a team member suffering from exhaustion. This was the combined team out on the coaster, but luckily they were able to bring him to a nearby ranch for rescue. The remaining members of these teams decided to continue a modified course on their bikes.

Don't Be A Kitty made it through the coasteering leg in three hours and five minutes. They headed on mountain bikes as nightfall began a little around 7:08pm. Remaining members of several teams on modified course routes followed them into the night as news came to race management that *Tighty Whities* pulled out just shy of the next checkpoint via jeep trail to the road. By this time only 14 racers were still on the course with only one complete team remaining and checkpoint 9 now served as the new finish line.

Pro Team *Don't Be A Kitty* crossed the finish line in 17 hours and 37 minutes. The remaining 10 adventure racers finished GEAR 10 within 15 minutes of each other about an hour and a half later.

The climatic conditions of race day created an environment that was unforgiving and difficult even for the most highly trained athletes. Extremely high temperatures combined with high humidity and virtually no wind proved to be an exhausting challenge.

GEAR 10 will be remembered for the 13 IV's applied by race emergency responders, the helicopter rescue from atop a ravine edge, two ambulance calls, and the perseverance of a team from Saipan that came to Guam and claimed their second title of the last decade of adventure racing on Guam.

GEAR 11 is set for May 29, 2011. For more information, race photos, and complete results of GEAR 10 visit www.guamextreme.com or join their group on Facebook.

RP

From Page 28

2010 Callaway Golf Junior Golf World Championship.

Tournament director Ted Malaran said they're expecting 120 participants to the double Peoria golf tournament.

He is also inviting members Refaluwasch Golf Association, Saipan Golf Association, Amigos Golf Association, and CNMI Women's Golf Association to join the competition.

More than $10,000 is at stake in the Philippine Independence Open Golf Tournament, including $5,000 hole-in-one prizes in holes No. 3 and 12.

The champion also gets to take home $800 and a trophy, while second and third placers win $500 and $300, respectively, as well as runner-up trophies. Fourth and fifth placers will receive in-kind prizes.

A nearest to the pin competition with a $20 entry fee will also be at stake in holes No. 3, 7, 12, and 14. Malaran also promised exciting raffle prizes and more surprises during the awards ceremony set from 5pm to 9pm at the Saipan Grand Hotel's Club V the evening of the tournament.

Showtime for the Philippine Independence Open Golf Tournament is set at 9:30am with tee time a couple of hours later at 11:30am. Men will tee off from the white tee, while women will start play at the red tee.

Entry fee costs $100 and includes green fee and dinner during the awards banquet at Club V.

For more information, call Malaran at 287-1227, Mike Cruz at 483-7171, Mando Guban at 483-6033, Rene Batallones at 898-3367, and George Sablan at 483-4530.

Established in 1993, Fil-Taga's tournaments operate under a computer-controlled handicap system that creates parity among players in the A and B Flights.

A Fil-Taga Ace of the Month champion is crowned monthly. Regular tournaments are scheduled once a month, normally every third Sunday. Green fees are in the $35 to $40 price range for most tournaments. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

YVONNE

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seconds in the 100m run during the Micro Games qualifier and national championships.

The Kagman High School graduate owns the CNMI mark in the 100m run at 12.99 seconds, which she logged during the 2008 Oceania Championship on Saipan. Besides the 100m mark, the 18-year-old Bennett also holds the CNMI national record in 200m race at 26.94 seconds.

With Bennett and Omar winning the May plums, they are now eligible to battle for the 2010 NMASA Male and Female Athletes of the Year award. They will be competing for the top award against early monthly award winners Jeff Race (January), Peter Loyola (February), Kieran Daly and Mieko Carey (March), and Ngirchongor and Gigi Zapanta (April).

NMASA will choose the top performers of the year once the 12-month list is completed.

Bennett owned the last two NMASA Female Athlete of the Year awards, while tennis' Ji Hoon Heo won the 2010 plum.

3 TAKE MVP

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ing the Sparks to a 9-1 slate in the regular season.

Tudela and the Rollers advanced to Division A semifinals, but they lost to eventual overall champion Lyn's BBQ. Santos' Sparks made it to Division B finals, beating Grillin' 79-52.

In Division A finals, Lyn's BBQ slipped past the Sonics, 80-77, to set up a grand finale duel against the Sparks.

In the one-game finals, Mateo fired 17 points, lifting Lyn's BBQ to a 67-57 title win. His timely outside shots helped Lyn's BBQ foil the Sparks' repeated comeback bids.

Besides the MVP trophies, the Navy Hill caging handed out six more individual awards.

Lyn's BBQ Elmer Esdrelon was given the Best Coach trophy and his player, Noel David, took the best in assists plum. The Sonics' Leo Galarse went home with the best in steals award, Diamond's Jason Palacios claimed the best in 3-points plum, and Grillin's Joshua Norita and Rollers' John Norita notched the best in rebounds and blocks trophies, respectively.

Two team awards were also given with Yuman Pacific Gold bringing home the best in uniform trophy and GEC Pawnshop winning the sportsmanship award.

This year's Navy Hill caging drew a record of 22 teams, which were divided into two pools.

Division A had Rollers, Sonics, Diamond, Viel's, Torch Bearers, Lynn's BBQ, Moonlight, Tropical Laundry, Star Water, and Morales Team. Division B was composed of DL Cooking Gas, Sparks, QQ Rent A Car, NVM, Grillin', Mix Blood, Yuman Pacific, Strikers, Managaha, and MTV Contructor.

Only six teams in each pool advanced to the playoffs; Pool's A Rollers, Sonics, Diamond, Viel's, Torch Bearers, Lynn's BBQ and Pool B's Cooking Gas, Sparks, QQ Rent A Car, NVM, Grillin, and Yuman Pacific.

The playoffs had a single-elimination format and Lyn's BBQ came out of the bottom of the playoff seeding to win the second edition of the caging.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Yvonne, Tyrone are May's best

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Sprinters Tyrone Omar and Yvonne Bennett cruised their way to the NMASA Male and Female Athletes of the Month awards after their impressive runs in two tournaments last month.

Omar recorded a season-best 11.03 seconds in the 100m race during the Micronesian Games qualifying tournament and the CNMI National Championships. Omar's time came a month after he lost the 200m run to April Male Athlete of the Month Dennis Ngirchongor.

The May awardee's performance in the 100m run reaffirmed his status as the top sprinter of the Commonwealth and one of the CNMI's strongest bets in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau this August.

Omar holds Micronesia's record in 100m at 10.99 seconds, which he posted during the 2007 Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa. He shares the record with FSM's Jack Howard. Howard and Omar are expected to slug in out in sprint races in Palau.

Bennett is another sprinter who is likely to put the CNMI in the medal podium. She posted a season best 13.17

See YVONNE on Page 27

Bennett

Omar

RP Independence Day golf tourney on June 13

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Philippine Independence Open Golf Tournament director Ted Malaran, center, and Fil-Taga members Mike Cruz, left, and Mando Guban are inviting the local golf community to grace their event set for June 13 at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

After a four-year hiatus, Fil-Taga Golfers Association will once again host the Philippine Independence Open Golf Tournament on June 13 at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

Staged to celebrate the 112th anniversary of the Philippines' declaration of independence from Spain on June 12, 1998, the tournament is sponsored by Mobil Oil Marianas and will benefit Karidat Social Service Network as well as help R.J. Macaranas' campaign in the

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BLOW-BY-BLOW ACCOUNT OF GEAR 10

Are you tough enough?

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Guam Extreme Adventure Race 10, presented by the Guam Visitors Bureau and hosted by the Guam Adventure Sports Association, administered its official press conference and gear check last Saturday, May 29, at the Guam Visitors Bureau offices in Tumon Bay, Guam.

The teams sized each other up and race coordinators, Julie Shane and Sally Malay, performed the mandatory gear check for each team. Then the teams lined up for the official announcement in the southern vil-

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WALTER J. SUTHERLAND

"Don't Be a Kitty" members, from left, Yoshi Gabaldon, Russ Quinn, Mieko Carey, and Tyce Mister won the Guam Extreme Adventure Race 10 on May 30, 2010.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

From left, Division B regular season MVP Tom Santos of the Sparks, Division A MVP Zack Tudela of Rollers, and Finals MVP Dan Mateo of Lyn's BBQ pose with their trophies during the awards ceremony for the Navy Hill caging last week.

3 take MVP plums in Navy Hill caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 2010 Navy Hill Friendship Basketball handed out three most valuable player awards at the conclusion of the league last Sunday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Recipients of these coveted trophies were Rollers' Zack Tudela, the Sparks' Tom Santos, and Lyn's BBQ's Dan Mateo. Tudela was named regular season MVP for Division A after leading Rollers to an unbeaten record (10-0) in the round-robin elimination round. In Division B, Santos took the highest individual honors after power-

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